



# HOWNIKAN

Mkogisos / February 2016

Top Photo: Two eagles photographed by the CPN Eagle Aviary staff during a trip to Horsehoe Lake near Harrah, Oklahoma.

Wadase update:  
February 2016



Sightings of Wadase rarer in 2016, but wildlife abounds at the CPN Aviary.

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## 2016 Tribal Elections



Tribal elections for 2016 are set as Wesselhoff and Schmidlkofer will be re-elected without opposition.

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## CPCDC provides alternative to payday loan lenders

According to the statistics from the St. Louis Federal Reserve Bank, with more than 20,000 across the U.S., there are more payday loan lenders in the U.S. than franchise locations of either Starbucks or McDonald's. The golden arches boast a paltry 14,267 franchises by comparison.

The wide presence of this specific kind of lending institution, which can charge between 300 to 1,333

life who, for a variety of reasons, find themselves turning to these kinds of lending institutions.

"The majority of the people I see do have bruised credit," said Pollard. "Just on average their credit scores are around 500, which is in the risky area, and many of those are due to payday loans or medical bill collections. Once something reports, it reduces your credit score and doesn't

"It's frustrating because the education is not there, and until Oklahoma gets incensed about the predatory problem, it's not going to change. There have been attempts at the state legislature to make it easier for payday lenders to charge more, and in many cases our legislators are woefully unaware of the problem."

Pollard was at the state capitol during a 2013 legislative session and



*The prevalence of payday loan lenders are often seen in areas with lower per capita incomes.*

percent of annual interest when issuing short term loans, speaks to the doldrums of many Americans' financial situations. A survey by www.BankRate.com showed that roughly 63 percent of Americans have no savings for medical emergencies or large car repair bills. With so many working people just one emergency away from needing a quick cash infusion to cover the bills, payday lenders serve a role to individuals who otherwise wouldn't have access to short term loans.

The Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation is one organization that has undertaken the task of providing similar, but significantly cheaper services, to Tribal employees and members in need of a short term loan or loans that can help build credit. To stem the tide of those ensnared by predatory loan costs, finance professionals like the CPCDC's Tina Pollard are there to help. As a certified credit counselor, she works with clients from all walks of

go away for seven years. Even if you pay it."

Pollard's personal experiences play a central role in her work, as she cites her own past financial situation when speaking with clients at the CPCDC, saying "I've made all the mistakes, I've taken the payday loan route."

"The reason I had to rebuild my credit was because I had six knee surgeries in a row," she elaborated. "Once you have a surgery, you don't pay just one doctor. Every physician, physical therapist and anesthesiologist bills you separately. Everyone wants a payment arrangement, and ultimately there are only so many payments you can make."

Pollard said that many of those she counsels were in situations like her own, with little savings but who are working. Others are seeking to recover from a divorce where one spouse's bad habits destroyed the credit score of the other.

witnessed the army of lobbyists that payday lenders' profits can afford. She noticed that during a legislative debate on whether to loosen regulations on the industry, there were 26 payday lending lobbyists present. David Blatt of the Oklahoma Policy Institute, a longtime proponent of better options for low income borrowers, agreed with Pollard's assessment. Though the bill passed both houses of the statehouse, Governor Mary Fallin eventually vetoed the legislation.

"They're pretty well represented at the capitol," said Blatt in an email. "It's been a while since there's been a serious effort to legislate on this issue, but the major operators all have contract lobbyists, as does their association."

Blatt said that despite arguments that the industry provides a service to an underbanked sector of the American

*Continued on page 3...*

# Headdresses not traditional for Potawatomi

The resurgence in positive portrayals of Native American culture has come with unforeseen consequences in recent decades. A drive for purity – specifically in terms of defining what it means to be Indian – has become a prominent topic of discussion in places like Oklahoma, where so many tribal nations, cultures and peoples intermingled.

Thanks in part to a rise in the appropriation of headdresses, a ceremonial symbol for warriors and leaders typically associated with tribes from the Great Plains region, it seems that the country is only one concert or poorly managed publicity stunt away from debating the famous Native American head adornment. Yet a deeper question emerges in places like Oklahoma where 39 federally recognized tribes from across the continent reside; which Indians are allowed to wear headdresses?

“From New England down to the south, with what became the ‘five civilized tribes’ of Oklahoma after their removal, there weren’t headdresses as we know them. There was feather adornment on head gear, but very typical headdress that has been seen and portrayed in Westerns is very plains-centric,” explained CPN Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D.

The mixing of tribal traditions has a long history in Oklahoma. Indeed, one of the Citizen Potawatomi’s most famous members, artist Woody Crumbo, grew up with members of other tribes. His art and success as an artist were ultimately influenced by these experiences.

Mosteller sees that drive to label what is pure Potawatomi teachings from other tribes’ traditions as a fairly recent phenomenon.

“People in the early twentieth century were practical. This is where they lived and these were the people they lived next to. Teachings, techniques, traditions; you pick up from these places and people. We as Potawatomi started to incorporate more things with the buffalo that were down here, because there certainly weren’t a lot running around northern Indiana.”

Even Potawatomi bands like the Citizen Potawatomi and the Prairie Band



*“Ten Potawatomi Chiefs” by George Winter, 1837.*

developed different traditions, dating back to the pre-removal area. While the former were primarily based in the northern woodlands on the shores of Lake Michigan, the latter’s traditional territories further west brought them into contact with the plains’ tribes.

“When they ended up on the same Kansas reservation together after the removals, it was two different tribes with different practices that were occupying the same area,” said Mosteller.

Oklahoma’s role as the last stop for many North American tribes provides a study of the impact that intermarriage and close quarters can have on tribal cultures. Though mixed tribal families in areas like the Great Lakes aren’t uncommon, many tribes in those areas share common cultural practices. The Odawa, Ojibwe and Potawatomi are a perfect example.

The diverse geographic origins of so many Oklahoma tribes means that a child might have a mother who is

a descendant from the Potawatomi, originally from Indiana, and a Cherokee father, whose ancestors originally lived in mountains of North Carolina. In Europe, similar geographic distances would likely bring one into contact with two different cultures, languages and possibly, countries.

Though the Potawatomi did not traditionally use what is commonly thought of as a traditional headdress, wearing one should be done with respect for the culture from which it came. Mosteller pointed out that while disrespect may not be intended, someone from a tribe who holds such items sacred might not see it that way.

“For someone whose headdress is a sacred item, like the Lakota Sioux, they may not understand why you were wearing it,” she said.

However she also cautioned that even if someone is wearing a headdress, that doesn’t mean they may not have permission or the blessing to do it.

“There are times when someone is gifted a headdress from a member of a tribe with those traditions, and they are wearing it respectfully as a gift they received. You never know a person’s story. So the onus is on the wearer ultimately to be respectful and know why they are wearing it.”

## What did they wear?

For the Potawatomi today, their forefathers’ headgear may not be as practical in the Oklahoma summers as it was when the Tribe resided further north. Turbans – made from cloth and before their near extinction from overhunting, otter and beaver skin – were a common adornment on Potawatomi men in the early years of European contact. Looking at the sketches of famous Potawatomi chronicler George Winter, one often sees more turbans than not.

In an 1837 journal entry, Winter described the dress of Jean Baptist Brouillette, an Indian interpreter who was half Canadian and half Miami.

Wrote winter, “His tout en semble was unique, as his aboriginal costume was expensively shewey [sic]. He wore around his head a rich figured crimson shawl a la turban, with long and flowing ends gracefully falling over the shoulders.”

As noted in historian Robb Mann’s “True Portraiture of the Indians, and of Their Own Peculiar Conceits of Dress, Winter’s description of Brouillette’s dress reflected what was characteristic of male dress in the Great Lakes fur trade society.

“Many men wore colorful silk scarves wrapped around their heads to form turbans and most wore trade silver earrings,” wrote Mann.

The ornate dress of the Potawatomi in many of Winter’s sketches indicates that not only were they and their neighboring tribes doing well during the booming fur trade years, many were also dressing the part.

In her work “Indian Women and French Men,” Susan Shepler-Smith writes the artist’s portraits “are the visual evidence of the prosperity that characterized indigenous communities in the southern Great Lakes. Nor were the more elegant figures in Winter’s portfolio dressed for ceremonial occasions; theirs was the dress of daily life.”

Mosteller pointed out that there are some discrepancies on the origin of the turban in Potawatomi culture, saying several stories have been debated in recent years. She noted one version in which a delegation of Cherokees visiting the eighteenth century court of the King of England were told to look more presentable by their English hosts before their meeting. Finding their uncovered heads unsuitable, the English courtiers found disused turbans left behind from a previous delegation visiting from the Indian subcontinent. Upon the successful meeting wearing the turbans, the Cherokees returned to the U.S., where the cloth turban’s popularity grew along the North American trade routes, with the Potawatomi ultimately catching up with the trend.

“The thing is, the cloth turban might have happened that way, but the Potawatomi were already wearing otter skin turbans. Just looking at it practically, with cloth you don’t have to hunt it, clean it and then wear it. Cloth was more practical,” said Mosteller.

Practicality remains a common theme with the Potawatomi today and their neighboring tribes, wherever they may be. With 32,000 members spread across the U.S. and Canada, it’s only natural for traditions, dress and practices to intermingle.

As with all things, the goal is to remain respectful and cognizant of the meaning of cultural items one dons.



*“Council of Keewaunay” by George Winter, 1837.*

# Growing up hungry: food insecurity's impact on mental health

By Lenzy Krehbiel-Burton

Keep the commodity cheese away from Fawn White, thanks.

"I hate commod cheese," she said. "I despise it when I hear people say, 'Oh, I love that cheese!' Well buddy, you didn't grow up on that cheese."

With American Indian and Alaska Natives more likely to struggle with regular access to food, that cheese, distributed through an assistance program offered by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is a regular sight in many Native houses, including White's childhood home in rural north-central Oklahoma. It has also left a lasting imprint on thousands of palettes and psyches.

Darcy Freedman, an associate professor of applied social sciences at Case Western Reserve University's Prevention Research Center for Healthy Neighborhoods, has been studying food security for 15 years. Since the Great Recession in the late 2000s, Freedman has noticed an increase in the number of food insecure households from all backgrounds, even as the economy stabilizes.

"It used to be 10 percent of Americans were food insecure," Freedman said. "It's still shocking that in the wealthiest country, that it's a reality. Children and seniors are hit hard, and those are two populations where food is medicine, as it allows you to provide resiliency for your mental health."

## Hunger and mental health

That proverbial missing medicine leads to higher rates of mental health concerns, not only in childhood, but also among adults who experienced food insecurity during their formative years.

In a 2002 journal article published by the American Academy of Pediatrics,



*Six-year-old Trevor White with his catch of the day. A resident of eastern Alaska, White has been learning how to hunt, fish and store traditional foods from his Alaska Native relatives.*

a study of both preschool and school-aged children showed that even when taking into account other factors, students who were chronically hungry had higher rates of depression and anxiety.

The study also found a correlation between chronic childhood hunger and higher rates of externalizing behaviors, such as poor self-control.

For some children, that may mean acting out at school, as evidenced by a November 2015 study of kindergarten and first grade students that found children in food insecure households were more likely to have disciplinary problems than their classmates coming from homes with sufficient food.

"We found consistent negative impacts of the transitions on teachers'

reports of children's externalizing behaviors, self-control, and interpersonal skills and on parents' reports of children's overall health status," Rice University's Rachel Kimbro and Justin Denny wrote.

White wrestled with self-control as well. However, her struggles were at the dinner table with her siblings and frequently present cousins rather than in the classroom in an effort to avoid going to bed on an empty stomach.

"It was like a race for us," she said. "I don't know why, but we needed to eat, and have seconds and eat until everything was gone. We were like locusts."

That fight to maintain self-control can manifest itself long after food access is more stable.

Alison Black, an Osage, Cheyenne and Prairie Band Potawatomi mother of four, grew up in a house that, aside from the school lunch program, did not participate in any food assistance programs. Other than going to a cousin's home or raiding the pantry at her mother's employer, it was not uncommon for her only meal to come from the school cafeteria or for dinner to consist of popcorn and boiled eggs.

Those memories have helped shape mealtime at the Black house. The children's favorite snacks are regularly available and eating out more than once a week is not uncommon.

"I think this is the thing that I know that I can make sure they can have, so I do not mind indulging in eating out quite a bit," she said. "I never tell them no when it comes to food."

## So who's hungry?

According to the U.S. Department of Agriculture, as of 2014, an estimated 14 percent of all households are considered food insecure, or struggling to consistently access adequate food. Even higher rates of food insecurity are present among families with children, those headed by a single parent, families from rural areas and those living within 185 percent of the poverty line.

Families relying on food assistance programs, either through a state or tribal government, a local non-profit organization or a church, are included in the number of food insecure homes.

"If you're not able to provide food, it makes it difficult to feel like you're living a dignified life," Freedman said. "It's a basic need and the mental health implications are very real. 'If I can't provide food for my kids or partner, who am I?'"

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## CPCDC continued...

economy, studies have shown that many of these borrowers have less expensive options. In an emailed response, he pointed out that one common argument for these lenders is that their customers would otherwise attempt to take out even more expensive, online payday lending.

Citing a Pew Studies report, Blatt wrote that "comparing usage in states with permissive and restrictive laws, Pew was able to conclude that in states that restrict payday lending, 95 out of 100 would-be borrowers elect not to use payday loans at all – just five borrow online or elsewhere."

## Waking up to how they work

"If the media took a closer look at the borrowers and showed how destructive these loans and fees are to families, things might change," said Pollard.

Yet there does seem to be an increasing awareness of the potential problems that are arising from many communities' reliance on predatory

lenders as the primary financers in low-income areas.

Author Mehrsa Baradaran, has written extensively on the \$89 billion economic impact the short term lending industry has in the U.S. in her recent book "How the Other Half Banks." In an interview with PBS News Hour, Baradaran pushed back on the logic that higher interest rates and fees charged to those using these kinds of loans were levied because those borrowers had fewer assets to leverage as collateral.

"It is certainly a higher risk to loan to someone who is low income. However, there's a lot of studies to show that the price that they're actually charging isn't the cost of the loan. It's also fairly misleading when you compare it to the credit markets that the middle class and higher income have access to," Baradaran said.

She went on to note that most upper and middle class borrowers don't pay the market prices for credit, whether on mortgage, student loan or other credits issued by banks.

"Any sort of bank credit you get is heavily subsidized by the federal government," she pointed out, meaning low income users of short term lenders often pay far more to borrow.

As Pollard explained, even if one discounts the interest rates, predatory lenders make a profit on their initial loan in the fees.

"The first two and a half payments only go to pay off the fees, you're not touching principal," she said. "On a \$500 signature loan, you'd typically pay \$200 for it. At a normal bank, there's usually no fee and you just pay the interest."

These lenders also sell signature loans by telling clients they'll help build their credit scores, a claim that doesn't always pan out given the nature of the lending product. Without at least 12 months of credit history, consumers pay more in interest and the benefit to their credit score is minimal. With short term loan renewals occurring every two to three months, the credit report is cut short and the client's overall credit score

doesn't improve. Payday loans are not typically reported to credit bureaus because they are paid in full or a new loan is taken out each payday, essentially starting the whole process over again.

Despite being outnumbered and outspent, advocates like Pollard at the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation continue to help those they can.

"I have better options now because of what I know," Pollard said. "I've been where all my clients have been, and I do what I do because I have a passion for it. I want to help them build their credit so that they're in my position. It just takes them coming in the door."

To learn more about credit counseling and short term loan services available to Citizen Potawatomi Nation employees and other members of federally tribes, please contact the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation at 405-878-4697 or by visiting [www.CPCDC.org](http://www.CPCDC.org).

# CPN-Pottawatomie County Sheriff partnership benefits area residents

When first responders receive a call for help they know their fellow agencies are listening and ready to provide backup. This is how the working relationship between the CPN Tribal Police and sister agencies like the Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office has worked for years, and in recent months that partnership has only increased.

"For one thing, working together the way that we do sets the example for other agencies and entities in the state of Oklahoma," said Pottawatomie County Sheriff Mike Booth. "I know that in other places things don't work as well as they do between tribes and other agencies as they do in Pottawatomie County."

Sheriff Booth points out that in largely rural counties like Pottawatomie County, partnerships between first responders from a wide array of agencies are vital to serve and protect.

"Working with CPN and other tribes isn't just that it's good for the sheriff's office or one specific agency," noted Booth. "It's to the benefit of the population that we serve and as first responders it makes our jobs easier."

Sheriff Booth sits on the Pottawatomie County 911 board of directors and recalled his surprise at hearing CPN Tribal Chairman John Barrett's February 2015 proposal to pay for the county's 911 dispatching services. The agreement, which was finalized and put into effect in October 2015, allows fees once paid to use the system to stay with agencies and be put back to use for first responders.



*Emergency Management Director Tim Zientek and Tribal Chairman John "Rocky" Barrett with the donated ambulance.*

"To have Chairman Barrett stand up in that meeting and make the offer that he did, not only was it a relief to many of us who were struggling to find a way to increase our services, not just trouble shoot the challenges we already had. It was a big, big deal," said Booth.

Many county agencies have put those funds once paid for the 911 services back into capital improvements. For the sheriff's office, Booth notes that multiyear efforts to upgrade his agency's auto fleet has been boosted by an estimated \$82,000 saved now that CPN bears the costs of running the emergency dispatching response services.

"As the chief law enforcement officer in the county, I still have to provide these services, regardless if there's agreements like this one in place or

not. Because of this partnership that we have, I can provide more for my deputies, who in turn respond to calls and back up our sister agencies, like the CPN Tribal Police. It helps all of us really."

The sheriff's office also recently accepted a donation from the Tribe in the form of a decommissioned ambulance. The ambulance, which will be retrofitted and upgraded as a mobile crime scene office for sheriff office investigators, was secured through a federal government surplus sale by the Tribe. Originally intended for the Tribal police department, it was rarely used and passed on to the sheriff's office after consultation with CPN Emergency Management Director Tim Zientek. Tribal Police Lieutenant Jody Opela secured the vehicle through the auction and had

on occasion loaned the Tribe's own mobile unit to sheriff's deputies.

"After being approached by one of the county detectives about its use, I approached Vice-Chairman Linda Capps about donating the unit to the County Sheriff's Office and she approved the donation," said Zientek. "They would use the vehicle to store the evidence collection equipment and other equipment to use at a crime scene in order to facilitate a timely and extensive investigation."

Sheriff Booth notes that in the long hours that can sometimes stretch into days on a crime scene investigation, the ability to step inside a climate controlled mobile unit for a cup of coffee or a brief break can make a huge difference.

"Being able to get out of the heat or cold after working on a crime scene for eight or nine hours is such a big deal to our investigators. Without the Tribe securing the ambulance and donating it to us, my officers might not have that option."

Since a signing agreement between County 911 Trust Chairman J.R. Kidney and Chairman Barrett in June 2015, the Tribe has taken over costs and dispatching services for the county. On Oct. 13, the services officially switched over to the upgraded dispatching center located inside the Tribal police headquarters. CPN spent \$500,000 upgrading the technology and infrastructure of the building as well as hiring of ten former county 911 employees.

## CPN Veterans report: January 2016



By Daryl Talbot, Commander of the CPN Veterans Organization

*Bozho,*

The CPN Veterans Organization had a very productive 2015, and 2016 promises to be a good year as well. January was our election-of-officers month. At the time of writing, we have not had the elections yet. Only a few offices will be up for filling and we should have some good people to fill them. A full roster and report will go in the March 2016 report.

On 14 December 2015 a webinar was aired titled "An Overview of PTSD and Treatment Perspectives Among Native American Veterans." Native scholar and tribal veteran Greg Urquhart facilitated this program which was recorded, archived and can be seen at any time by visiting the website: [cpn.news/PTSD1602](http://cpn.news/PTSD1602). It will provide information on reports by researchers that Native Americans tend to greatly underutilize health-care resources provided to them because of the cultural barriers. So, understanding the culture is needed to overcome these barriers. A majority

of psychological services are based on a western model of mind body dualism and are not representative of the common Native American veterans' view of holistic (body and mind as one) healing.

This program should help participants:

Identify preferences for aspects of treatment/healing programs, as reported by Native American veterans that would facilitate engagement in the healing process.

Examine Native American veterans' attitudes, beliefs and perceptions toward PTSD and its treatment/healing.

Recognize "military culture" in assessing and managing Native American veterans with PTSD.

Connection information:

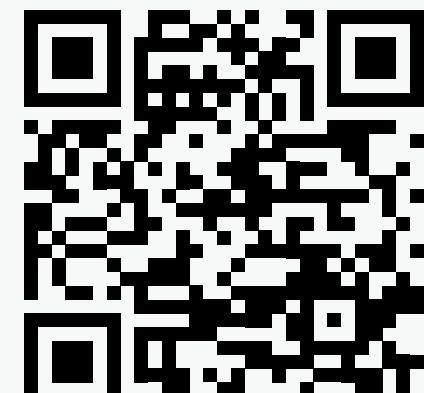
1. Go to: [ihs.adobeconnect.com/ihsrounds](http://ihs.adobeconnect.com/ihsrounds)
2. Select "enter as a guest"
3. Input your name (first and last)

4. The passcode is: rounds
5. Press the "enter room button"

Remember the CPN Veterans Organization meets every fourth Tuesday at 6 p.m. (or as soon as you can get there) in the North Reunion Hall on the Potawatomi Powwow Grounds. All CPN and spouse veterans and their families are welcome. A meal is provided.

*Migwetch.*

Daryl Talbot, Commander



# One year in, BDC continues bright future operating under HEARTH Act

In March 2015, Citizen Potawatomi Nation welcomed the BDC Gun Room under a HEARTH Act lease. Thanks to the federal legislation, private companies that have long been unable or unwilling to invest in Indian Country now have a streamlined process to do business on federal trust land. The *Hownikan* spoke with BDC Gun Room owner and CPN Tribal member Jack Barrett about the first year working under the HEARTH Act and what is in store for the future.

**Looking back at your first year at the new location, how would you rate the progress BDC Gun Room has made?**

“We have had a good year. All new businesses and big expansions face a tough road their first year and we are no different. Learning new systems, developing policies and procedures takes a lot of time and hard work. Thankfully, I have an amazing staff that work hard, solve problems and come up with innovative ideas.

“Sales were not as high as I had planned, but we met our financial obligations to the Nation and kept our customers happy. Our primary goal when we opened was to maintain and even improve the level of customer service we were already known for. In that, I feel we have done exceedingly well. We have earned thousands of new, loyal customers and kept our long-time customers as well. I’m very proud of my staff for that in particular, because they are the ones providing our customers with great service.”

**You've been in the business for a while, but were there any issues or trends that you encountered in this first year that you didn't see coming?**

“The downturn in the economy as a whole, particularly in the oil and gas industry, put a bit of a damper on sales. When oil prices are low, we don’t sell as many of the big ticket items. Having started in the business during, and worked through, some crazy times with regard to availability of merchandise, our planning



Jack Barrett speaks at the 2015 opening of BDC Gun Room.

and position in the marketplace has helped insulate us from most of that.

“One thing that we were surprised by was the huge increase in enrollment in our Oklahoma SDA (handgun license) and ‘Defensive Handgun 1’ classes. We saw a steady increase through the year, but after the San Bernardino shootings, we had to double our class schedule and add a second instructor.”

**Strictly speaking as a business owner, how do you view the HEARTH Act's impact on your ability to operate as a private business on federal trust land?**

“Mainly its biggest impact is enabling me to be a small part of the economic powerhouse and amazing recreational destination that is the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. Leasing this property under the HEARTH Act does not give me a competitive advantage financially over another business not located on trust land, because I still charge the same sales tax as everyone else. The biggest advantage is that because those taxes go to the Nation, they are able to provide services and opportunities to businesses like mine that might not be available elsewhere.”

**Tell us a bit about the types of shooting, both in terms of competitions and recreational, that BDC hosts on the shooting range?**

“On any given day, we see new and experienced shooters of all ages come through to shoot for fun and hone their skills. From police officers to overseas security contractors and everything in between, we train and host a wide variety of groups and individuals.

“Last spring, we started our noon league competition. At first open to Tribal members and CPN employees and now open to everyone, the noon league is a difficult but light-hearted test of your handgun skills. Shooting at noon and at 6 p.m. once a week for 8 weeks, competitors shoot handguns in everything from 22 to 45 calibers, all at 25 yards. It is the same format that many Tribal members shot in the competition held during the Family Reunion Festival.

“On that note, I’ll remind my fellow members to sign up for the pistol match during the 2016 Family Reunion Festival, as more than \$300 in prize money went *unclaimed* last year because we had no women shooters! Let’s go ladies!

“One of the things I am most excited about is the Girl Scouts of America Shooting Sports Program. In November, we began hosting a group of awesome young women from several troops here in Pottawatomie County. They learn about gun safety and proper use and handling of vari-

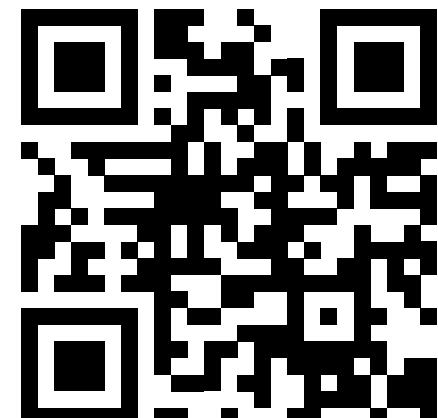
ous firearms and meet once a month to shoot, compete and have fun! All shoot very well, but some are really, *really* good shots. Overall, teaching kids proper gun handling and safety is my biggest passion and my greatest joy.”

**Can you tell us a bit about people interested in carry-conceal classes and learning more about firearms training?**

“The people taking our handgun classes come from every walk of life. Young people who just turned 21 to the most senior of senior citizens, men and women alike. One thing we have noticed is that because of our reputation for the way we treat our female customers, we see many women attending, either on their own or with a group of friends, who would not feel at ease in a less welcoming environment.

“One thing we stress is that the concealed carry class is not a class on how to shoot your handgun. It is a class on how to legally carry and when you are allowed to use one in self-defense. We see people taking our ‘Defensive Handgun 1’ class as well as taking hourly individual instruction, so they can learn how to shoot well and gain the ability to effectively use their handgun to not just survive a lethal encounter, but to win.”

**To learn more about BDC Gun Room, visit their location at 40960 Hardesty Rd, Shawnee, OK 74801 or visit them at [www.bdcgunroom.com](http://www.bdcgunroom.com) or their Facebook page.**



## CPN TAG AGENCY POLICY NOTICE

On January 4, 2016, the CPN Tag Agency began issuing two new decals:

Off Road Use (for ATVs, Off-Road Motorcycles)  
Non-Use (also known as 'black tag')  
(Boats not included)

Tribal members using CPN tags must be in compliance with the new policies and procedures. The full policies can be found at [potawatomi.org/services/tag-office](http://potawatomi.org/services/tag-office) or by calling the CPN Tag Agency at 1-800-880-9880. Please call before you register your tags so that all documents needed for your registration are met.



# CPN to start refuge for Monarch butterflies

For the past 20 years, environmental organizations have fought to keep the Monarch butterfly from going extinct. The iconic butterfly has experienced a significant population loss, mainly due to pesticide use on genetically engineered crops. Pesticides kill milkweed, which is the Monarch's main source of food and shelter. For some Native American tribes, butterflies symbolize joy through dancing and are considered a traditional symbol for indigenous people. This spring, CPN community garden organizers plan to plant milkweed and other nectar plants to help save the endangered Monarch.

According to one official, Oklahoma's commercial agriculture sector and pesticide use has been a driving force in the Monarch's decline. Speaking at a community garden workshop at CPN, Dr. Carol Crouch, the state-tribal liaison for the USDA Natural Conservation Service, explained the connection.

"With Oklahoma being a main corridor for the Monarch, the agriculture business has had the most impact on their main sources of food," said Crouch. "Milkweed is usually targeted as a weed. There needs to be an effort to save the plants that would help save the near-extinct Monarch."

Guest speaker Jane Breckenridge, owner of the Euchee Butterfly Farm in Leonard, Oklahoma, explained the importance of saving the endangered species.



*Photo courtesy of Tiago J. G. Fernandes.*

"We have been doing a lot of work on the Monarch lately because it is in a catastrophic population decline of over 90 percent," said Breckenridge. "The decline is significant because 30 percent of all agricultural crops and 70 percent of all plant life requires pollination by an insect and these pollinators are disappearing at an alarming rate."

Breckinridge's organization is home to the "Natives Raising Natives Project," which teaches butterfly farming to tribal citizens in rural Oklahoma. The three goals Breckenridge tries to achieve with her organization are to provide employment, stimulate science education for Native youth and promote conservation of Monarchs and the fragile ecosystems supporting them.

"If you look at a tribal jurisdiction map of Oklahoma you can see that nearly all of the Monarch's migration in critical condition falls within Tribal boundaries," said Breckenridge. "We haven't seen any interest about this come from the leadership of the state of Oklahoma. However, I knew all along to save the Monarchs and other endangered pollinators that this effort needs to come from the tribes."

Cultural Heritage Center Director Kelli Mosteller, Ph.D. is one of the CPN's community garden organizers and attended the workshop to learn about what they can do to help. She, along other Tribal members and employees, started the community garden in 2014. The first two seasons volunteers used different weed kill-

ers, but now are working to have an all-organic garden.

"Our main goal with our garden is to bring community together, which includes all of the animals and insects that gather there as well," said Mosteller. "A billion Monarchs have disappeared and we want to know what we can do to not further damage their habitat."

The CPN community garden is a grant funded project. Beginning this spring garden volunteers will work to develop a safe haven for Monarchs, who are not only beneficial to pollinating plants, but can also be used to teach Tribal youth and visitors. Community garden volunteers will incorporate plants into the garden that attract different pollinators, like Monarchs. The butterfly friendly plants will supply the vegetable harvest each season and serve as a food source for pollinators.

"Like most tribes, CPN is located in a rural area, surrounded by commercial agriculture, which is killing the Monarch," said Mosteller. "Incorporating a safe haven for a culturally significant symbol to our Tribe is a step in the right direction to saving the Monarch."

If you would like to know more about the work of Jane Breckenridge please visit [www.nativebutterflies.org](http://www.nativebutterflies.org) and stay up to date with the Tribe's garden at their Facebook page, [Gtege-men: CPN Community Garden](https://www.facebook.com/Gtege-men-CPN-Community-Garden).

## Freeman named to board of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma

In recent years the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation has provided funding, guidance and support for a number of Native American business owners around the country. In late 2015 the CPCDC secured its largest funding amount in more than 10 years, a total of \$21.3 million. The organization's success relies upon a small group of dedicated lending and financial professionals, one of which is Tribal member Felecia Freeman. A Tribal employee since 2006, Freeman was recently named to the board of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma, or AICCO. The Hownikan spoke to Freeman about her experiences at CPN, and about her work for the CPCDC.

### What Potawatomi family are you from?

"I am a Rhodd descendant. My great-great grandmother was Charlotte Vieux."

### What was your background before you came to the CPCDC?

"I was the coordinator for the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe Housing

Authority's Family Self-Sufficiency Program.

"It was welfare-to-work program; it provided assistance with education, transportation, employment and life skills training. I have always enjoyed working with people."

### How did you initially become involved with AICCO?

"I gave a presentation on the CPCDC and the services that we offer at one of the monthly chapter meetings. All of the business owners were excited to learn about our lending opportunities.

"Several pulled me aside after the presentation and signed up for credit counseling. They had been turned down for prior business loans because of bad or no credit and they needed advice on credit building or credit repair.

### Why is it important that someone from CPN is on the board of directors of AICCO?

"The mission of the American Indian Chamber of Commerce of Oklahoma is to assist American Indian businesses in the pursuit of self-suffi-



*Felecia Freeman*

ciency through business success. The CPCDC offers technical assistance, networking and lending to American Indian businesses to help achieve the same goal. So it is a perfect synergy of resources."

### Are there any projects or initiatives that you'd like to focus on as a board member?

"I would like to see us collaborate on training resources and technical assistance to prepare more Native Americans to start more business and

hire more Native Americans in the state of Oklahoma."

Established in 2003, the Citizen Potawatomi Community Development Corporation provides financial products and counseling services to the Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and employees nationwide as well as Native American-owned businesses throughout Oklahoma. If you would like to learn more about its services, please visit [www.cpcdc.org](http://www.cpcdc.org) or by calling (405) 878-4697.

## Food insecurity continued...

The USDA's most recent report on food security among Native households, presented to Congress in January 2012, placed the food insecurity rate at about 23 percent. That figure was based on data collected between 2006 and 2008, before the Great Recession.

The newest report on household food insecurity available through the USDA does not include Native American, Alaska Native or Native Hawaiian families in its racial/ethnic breakdown. However, several of the characteristics of families meeting the definition of food insecure are frequent among indigenous families.

- As of the 2010 Census, 27 percent of American Indian/Alaska Native families were living at or below the poverty line. Nine states had AI/AN poverty rates at or above 30 percent.

- SNAP participation rate among Native households is at 24 percent compared to 13 percent of the general non-Indian population.

- An estimated 900,000 Native students nationwide participate in the USDA's National School Lunch Program.

- As of 2012, more than 12 percent of all WIC participants are American Indian or Alaska Natives, including 9.8 percent of all participating infants and 13.7 percent of all participating children.

- An average of 88,600 people per month received FDPIR benefits in 2015.

- More than 53 percent of all American Indian and Alaska Natives reside in areas that are considered either rural or a small town by the U.S. Census Bureau.

Several of those risk factors applied to White's family, which met the

income requirements to receive assistance through FDPIR, an option available to eligible Native families as an alternative to SNAP. Eligible households must meet similar income requirements as SNAP participants, live either on or near a reservation or in certain areas of Oklahoma and not have a nearby licensed SNAP vendor, such as a grocery store or farmer's market.

Like many Native and non-Native rural areas, White's hometown, the unincorporated community of White Eagle, Oklahoma, does not have its own grocery store. The nearest one is almost 10 miles to the north in Ponca City, Oklahoma, putting the town on the edge of a food desert.

Federal legislation now places an additional emphasis on providing fresh or frozen food and more tribes have set up grocery store-style facilities in recent years to allow participants to select what commodities they want. However, those options were not available for White's family during her childhood.

Instead, the Ponca and Cherokee family of seven received a large monthly box of shelf stable fruits, vegetables, meats, juice, dry cereal and dairy products, including a brick or two of yellow, slightly springy, processed cheese. The box also often included an item or two that would raise some eyebrows among White and her siblings and turn their kitchen into a *rez*-style version of the show "Chopped."

"We used to get canned pink salmon with our commods and we thought it was the grossest thing ever," she said. "We would feed it to the neighborhood cats. Why in the world would pink salmon be given to Plains Indians? They have no idea what to do with it!"

### Finding food somewhere other than Wal-Mart

Elizabeth Hoover, a Micmac and Mohawk assistant professor of American

and Ethnic Studies at Brown University, specializes in food sovereignty, or the right to healthy and culturally appropriate food produced through ecologically sound and sustainable methods, and the right for groups to define their own food and agriculture systems.

Many tribes have lost access to healthy, culturally appropriate food over the last two centuries. As part of the "kill the Indian, save the man" mindset, boarding schools emphasized Western recipes. Federal relocation policies forcibly uprooted families from traditional hunting and farming lands first to reservations in the 19th century and then again in the 1950s and '60s to cities nationwide as part of the Urban Indian Relocation Act. With that access disrupted, traditional dietary staples, such as kanuchi (Cherokee hickory soup) and Ponca red corn began to fall by the wayside.

Instead, fry bread and other dishes that could easily be made from items either commercially available or provided through government issued rations became staples at the dinner table.

"Restricting access to food is a direct attack," Hoover said. "When you impact the ability for a tribe to feed itself, it changes everything. Just look at what happened with the boarding school era. Those students were told 'You must farm this way. The ways your ancestors did things was wrong or backwards.'"

Steps are being taken across Indian Country to reclaim those traditional foods, such as the Cherokee Nation's heirloom seed bank and the Bishop Paiute Tribe's aquaponics project in California. However, the long-term impact of those policies still linger.

After relying on Wal-Mart and government assistance programs growing up, the move to Alaska was jarring for White, as her new neighbors and friends utilize the same food sources as their ancestors.

"Living in rural Alaska is such a big jump from where I grew up in terms of food and nutrition," she said. "The people here still eat the same foods their ancestors ate. They still hunt the same marine mammals and land mammals. They still pick the fresh greens and berries and fish for the same fish. It continues to blow my mind."

"I never realized that people lived off the land because growing up where I grew up, we did not. The government beat us down and ingrained it in us that we needed them to survive. We needed them to house us, clothe us, feed us. We were not able to do that ourselves. We needed them."

### Life after commods

As an adult, White is still feeling the effects of growing up in a food insecure household. She tried roasted brussel sprouts for the first time in her mid 20s, followed by asparagus, avocado and other greens, helping prompt what she calls a "love affair" with fresh produce.

Overeating at meals is sometimes a struggle for her, a remnant of rushing the dinner table.

A staple of her childhood, commodity cheese stays off of the menu at her house, as do canned vegetables.

However, their legacy shows up in the discussions she and her fiancée, an Alaska Native, have with their 6-year-old son about food and nutrition.

"I'm thankful I have an Alaskan Native family who is able to teach me to subsist and to love the outdoors," she said. "I'm thankful my son is being raised in the subsistence life. He is being taught how to hunt and fish and how to properly store his food. He is keenly aware of where his food comes from. When we eat bacon or sausage, he wants to know who shot it and where."



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## HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY



**SOMETHING FOR EVERY SWEETIE**

# Iron Horse on track with rail agreement

Work on Iron Horse Industrial Park continues to move forward, raising the potential for the long-planned Citizen Potawatomi Nation project to connect Pottawatomie County with global markets. Following a recent rail agreement between the Tribe and the Arkansas-Oklahoma Railroad, track will soon be laid inside the industrial park.

Explained Tribal Economic Development Director James Collard, Ph.D., "This is an exciting time for everyone involved, from those who have worked to make the park reality to potential clients who may one day do business inside Iron Horse."

Iron Horse is a general-use industrial park located on the national rail network of the United States. Its central location on 400 acres of Native American trust land just 35 minutes southeast of Oklahoma City and direct connections to the Union Pacific Rail Road provides great potential for importers and exporters alike.

The agreement to put track throughout the park was signed off at the end of 2015. In spring 2016 visits from potential clients wanting to do business in Indian Country will be scheduled at a rapid pace. Through the use of the federal HEARTH Act and the park's designation as a foreign-trade zone satellite site, Iron Horse has the potential to become one of the drivers of economic development and jobs in Pottawatomie County in the coming years.

The project's progress has picked up speed since the Aug. 2013 completion of the Iron Horse Bridge, which



*Economic Development Director James Collard, Ph.D. presents Iron Horse to a recent visiting delegation to CPN.*

spans the North Canadian River just more than a mile southeast of Shawnee, Oklahoma. The effort of A-OK railroad at reopening the Iron Horse Bridge and the rail links connecting southeastern Oklahoma more than thirty years after it was severed is a prime example of a project that is more than just a rail line.

In Feb. 2014, Iron Horse received permission of having its designation as a foreign-trade zone. Designated a magnet site of the Port of Oklahoma City's foreign-trade zone, Iron Horse's status and location will provide incentives for new manufacturing and distribution facilities.

As OKC Port Authority Chairman

Craig Knutson noted at the time of the designation, "The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has been increasingly proactive on working to make the industrial park a Foreign Trade Zone, based off the understanding that it will become a major marketing tool for bringing business to the tribe. This not only strengthens the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, but will provide millions in economic growth in the area."

The park's success is in large part due to successful public-private partnerships between local Oklahoma businesses like A-OK Railroad and governmental entities like the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and the U.S. Department of Commerce. Two

grants, totaling \$2.2 million available through the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economic Development Administration will provide in additional funding during the park's opening stages.

"This spring we will be laying approximately 7,000 feet of rail to run inside the park. That is not a minor expense. Without the grant support from the U.S. Department of Commerce, this would not have happened," said Collard.

To learn more about Iron Horse Industrial Park, please visit [www.Iron-HorseCPN.com](http://www.Iron-HorseCPN.com) or contact the CPN Office of Economic Development at 405-275-3121.

## FireLake begins second phase of golf course upgrades

Taking advantage of the late 2015 weather, staff at FireLake Golf Course began the second phase of the course's long awaited upgrade of the back nine holes. The renovation will include new teeing surfaces, re-contoured fairways, drainage, state of the art irrigation system and wider cart paths.

"This course is almost 33 years old, and in that time we haven't undertaken a project as necessary or large scale as this one," noted Chris Chesser, golf course director.

Chesser estimates that since joining the golf course in 1992, the biggest renovation FireLake has undertaken was the 2009 replacement of the greens with Champion Bermuda.

"In many instances, we have the same irrigation and cart paths that were put in during the course's construction. It is just time to get some of that upgraded."

In the early weeks of December 2015, staff began pulling up cart paths and draining several ponds on the back nine holes. New 8-foot wide paths, the industry standard, will be laid.



*External work on the clubhouse is nearly complete as the parking lot and interior design aspects are set to begin.*

"The cart paths being wider allows our mowers to drive on them while it's wet outside," explained Chesser. "Right now our machines cause ruts on either sides of the original cart paths because they're not wide enough."

Superintendent Derron Day and his staff spent some of the warmer days in late December putting their noodling skills to use on holes 14 and 15, hand fishing the water hazards' stock and moving them in the course's other ponds. The old ponds will be filled

in and will be replaced with grass swales and drain basins. Originally too shallow and with higher elevation than the surrounding parts of the course, the ponds currently do not serve as drainage retention; meaning even small amounts of precipitation caused that section of the course to flood.

In addition to the irrigation updates, the fairways will get new grass with Astro and Latitude 36 to meet the highest rated cultivar of turf grasses.

The back nine revamp overlaps with the course's current big project, the construction of the new club house, which is on schedule to be completed in spring 2016.

Chesser acknowledges that the closure of the nine holes will be difficult for some of the course's regular customers, but insists that over the long haul, it will be worth it. As Shawnee, Oklahoma's only public golf course, FireLake has been in need of renovations for some time.

"In 2010, before the fire that destroyed the original club house, we hosted 92 tournaments. In 2015, we hosted 51. At the end of the day, when these projects are completed, we'll be one of the top golfing destinations in the state and one that is as affordable as it is fun to play," said Chesser.

The course's rates will remain the same during the renovations, which are tentatively scheduled to conclude in late Sept. 2016. For more information about FireLake Golf Course, please visit [www.firelakegolf.com](http://www.firelakegolf.com) or visit their Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/firelakegolf](http://www.facebook.com/firelakegolf).

# Language with Justin: February 2016

By Justin Neely,  
CPN Language Director

Lots of exciting things are going on with the language department. On Wed., Feb. 24 we will be hosting our third annual Winter Storytelling Festival at the CPN Cultural Heritage Center from 6-8 p.m. We will have food and refreshments and all are welcome. We hope you will come out and listen to some of these traditional tales that our people believe should only be told in the winter time because during this time the earth and spirits are asleep.

Our new online course has had great success reaching Tribal

members across the country and even outside the U.S. We have over 280 registered users.

During the winter months for those of you who can't attend our Winter Storytelling Festival we have a number of stories online which can be accessed in a special section for Winter Story telling at [language.potawatomi.org](http://language.potawatomi.org). This is the same address to join our online beginner classes. We have two courses currently available a 'Beginner I' and 'Beginner II.' We are also finalizing a children's course which will be put online in the next couple of months.

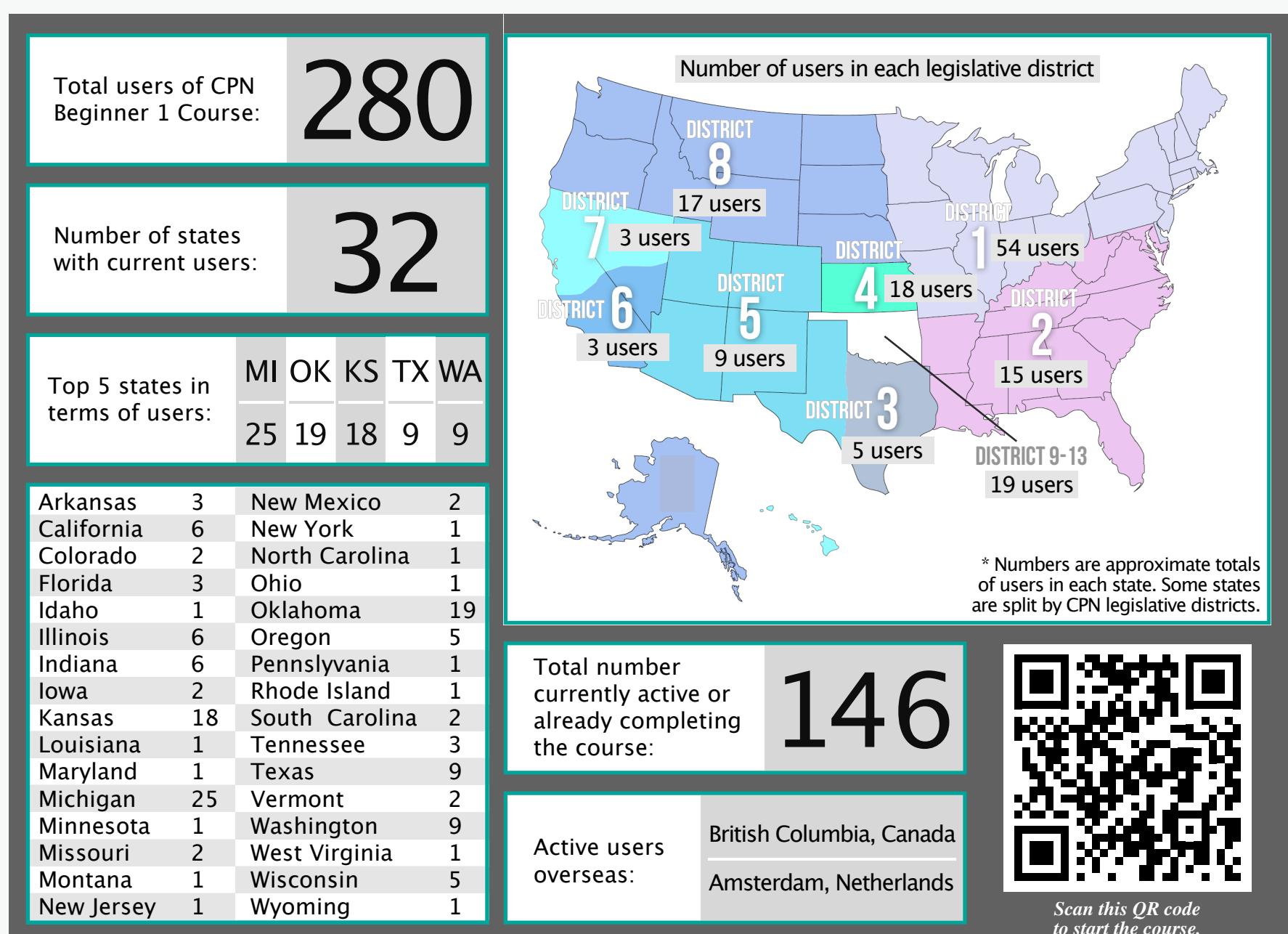
If you haven't had a chance to check the course out go to [language.potawatomi.org](http://language.potawatomi.org).

[potawatomi.org](http://potawatomi.org) create a login and get started. The course was designed specifically with our membership in mind. Many of our Tribal members live away from Shawnee but have a desire to learn more of the language and culture. Another problem for many people is they can't attend class at certain hours. That is why our course is self-paced, so that you can do the course when you have the time available. We have some members who work nights or who would rather work on the course in the few hours of the night. They have the ability to do this.

The online course allows students to learn vocabulary and truly begin

speaking Potawatomi at a fast pace as well providing constant feedback with quizzes and tests. The course also gives student the opportunity to learn more about cultural teachings as a part of each chapter. We also have designed games and video spoofs to make the learning process as fun as possible. We continue to make updates and changes so check back often.

If you have any questions, please email me at [JNeely@potawatomi.org](mailto:JNeely@potawatomi.org).



## ATTENTION TO ALL CPN MEMBERS WITH A REGISTERED CPN AUTOMOBILE TAG



If you have any questions, please call the CPN Tag Agency at 405-273-1009

If you have a tag that is faded or damaged, please contact the staff at the tag agency. We will be happy to replace your tag and update your registration with a new tag or replace your faded CPN seal. If your personalized tag is faded, we will need to order your replacement immediately. The month due will remain the same as your previous tag. If you need to renew your tag, please have your current insurance available. Please remember that all tags not in use must be returned to the CPN tag agency. We strongly encourage that you come to the tag agency to have the tag replaced.

# Path to degree open wide for Tribal member Jessica Johnson through CPN-SGU scholarship

The prevalence of Native Americans seeking higher education has increased in recent decades, with a 2014 White House Native Youth Report showing that between 1976-2006, the number of those attending college more than doubled. Yet higher enrollment doesn't necessarily mean long term success, with the report also noting that only 39 percent of Native American students enrolling in four year institutions in the fall of 2004 had completed a bachelor's degree in 2010. In contrast, 62 percent of white students completed a four year degree.

Though the factors attributing to this return are many – including the prevalence of poverty at home and poor elementary and secondary educational preparation – the statistics remain stark. Coupled with the ever-increasing rise of tuition for a four year degree, which on average tends to increase about eight percent annually, makes earning a college degree seem impossible for many Native Americans.

For Citizen Potawatomi facing such circumstances, the Tribe's recent scholarship agreement with Saint Gregory's University in Shawnee, Oklahoma is providing some relief. Jessica Johnson, a Tribal member from Strother High School had long thought a college education might be out of reach before learning about the scholarship program.

"I get an incredible opportunity to go to college paid for and live the life-



**Jessica Johnson**

style of a student," said Johnson. "It also gives me a chance to plan out my future and gives me more hope for what I can do with a degree."

She is one of the first enrolled Tribal members to use scholarship program and is majoring in communication. With her tuition, room and board fully covered by the program, Johnson explained that she has time to pursue extracurricular activities, and recently walked on to the SGU Cheer program.

"I heard about their cheer program after I had enrolled and had someone on the cheer team text the coach for me so I could get a tryout," said Jessica.

Stories like hers are especially poi-

gnant given the stark rates facing Native American women pursuing a higher education degree. Compared to all other demographics, Native American women have the lowest enrollment rate to four year universities. Like most who complete a bachelor's degree though, the future facing Native American college graduates is infinitely brighter if they just cross the finish line. According to statistics from the College Board, grads earn about 66 percent more over the course of a 40-year working life than a counterpart with only a high school diploma.

It wasn't just availability of the scholarship program that enticed Johnson to enroll at SGU though. Her mother, a longtime CPN employee, was nearing the completion of her own bach-

elor's degree from the university's college of continuing studies.

"I'd like think that I set a good example for her," explained her mother Ginger Johnson. "Ultimately she had to decide if she really wanted to take the opportunity that was presented. She knew what this opportunity meant and I couldn't be more proud of her. I can't wait to see what this does for my daughter's future."

Now entering her second semester at the college, Johnson expressed her gratefulness at the opportunity that once seemed so far out of reach.

"This is a blessing to me because this opportunity doesn't come up often," said Johnson. "If it wasn't for CPN I wouldn't have been able to experience college. My goals and plans have expanded because I have a chance to be more successful in life with this scholarship."

Students in an undergraduate program or adults pursuing an associate's, bachelor's or master's diploma in an accelerated degree program are eligible to receive scholarships covers tuition and attendance costs at Saint Gregory's University. Scholarships are still available and interested CPN members can contact Dr. Ron Faulk, Academic Dean, at 405-878-5407 (office) or [rhfaulk@stgregorys.edu](mailto:rhfaulk@stgregorys.edu) or CPN Education Director Tesia Zientek at [tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org](mailto:tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org) or by calling 405-275-3121.



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### WHICH DEGREE OPTION IS BEST FOR YOU?

Several degree options are funded by this scholarship. Whether you have previous college credit or are just starting out, you should meet with a CPN or SGU representative to determine which degree option is best for you.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE CPN AND SGU SCHOLARSHIP, VISIT

[WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG/IMAGES/SGU-CPN-DIGITAL.JPG](http://WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG/IMAGES/SGU-CPN-DIGITAL.JPG)

### APPLICATION PROCESS

Once you've decided that St. Gregory's University is the right opportunity for you, then you will proceed to the application process.



# Carmichael named top senior woman at University of Oklahoma

By Debbie Copp

*CPN Tribal Member Jenny Carmichael is a member of the Nadeau family and has received numerous academic, athletic and extracurricular accolades during her time at the University of Oklahoma. The following article was originally published on [www.soonersports.com](http://www.soonersports.com). It is reprinted here with their express written permission.*

On a fall semester that has already been filled with honors, University of Oklahoma senior and track and field student-athlete Jenny Carmichael picked up the ultimate student honor Friday when she was named the outstanding senior woman at OU. She will also be honored Saturday during pregame ceremonies prior to the OU-Iowa State game.

It is believed she is the first student-athlete in school history to win the award.

Jenny Carmichael received the University of Oklahoma's outstanding senior woman award on Nov. 6 and was recognized by OU President David L. Boren and Marty Dama, president of Sooner Parents.

A chemical engineering accelerated BS/MS major, Carmichael will receive her bachelor's degree in May, then add her master's a year later. A discus thrower during the track and field season, she is a redshirt junior in terms of athletic eligibility.

Seniors at OU apply for outstanding senior honors through the individual undergraduate colleges. Those applications, which require an essay,



*Jenny sits with her parents, Janet and Curt, who drove from Tulsa to support their daughter at the awards ceremony. Her paternal aunt Kay (far right), a former OU swimmer, also came from Dallas to support.*

are forwarded to the Leadership and Volunteerism area in Student Affairs. A committee of faculty, staff and students select the outstanding senior man and woman, then the colleges select their outstanding seniors.

Jenny sits with her parents Janet and Curt who drove from Tulsa to support their daughter at the awards ceremony. Her paternal aunt Kay (far right), a former OU swimmer, also came from Dallas to support.

Carmichael addressed her most significant OU experience in her essay.

"With the most incredible coach in the nation and teammates who would soon become sisters, I could do anything because they were behind me all the way. While my most significant university experience would undoubtedly be my transformation

through athletics, the reason goes far beyond sport itself. It's not because of meet championships, Big 12 Conference recognition, victories or accolades. The significance behind my journey as a college athlete is so much bigger - it's about the people I've been able to inspire and the way the journey has shaped me.

"As a female discus thrower, a lot of emphasis is placed on being technical, strong, powerful, and explosive. Thus, to grow, I first had to build my technical knowledge and use the laws of physics and engineering that I learned in class. Suddenly physics came alive as I pondered how the angled trajectory of my discus release influenced flight due to downward gravitational force on the lifted edge. Similarly, engineering enabled me to contemplate the biomechanical feedback loop occurring with the

pressure in my blood vessels as I stretched my right arm to release the discus. Quickly, school became an art to be mastered rather than a subject to learn as everyday life inspired me."

Carmichael shares her honor with OU faculty athletic representative and the Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, Kelly Damphousse.

The current president of OU's Student-Athlete Advisory Council, Carmichael made history two weeks ago when she became the first female student-athlete to be named to the Homecoming Court as one of the finalists for homecoming queen.

Quick to share praise, Carmichael turned her attention to throws coach, Brian Blutreich.

"He's been my biggest supporter in all of this. He's always enabled me to succeed and inspire others in the process, and I wouldn't be here today without him. I'm so blessed he took a chance on me and saw what I could be long before I saw it myself. If I can one day impact people half as much as he has me, then I know I'll have succeeded in life. While it is my name on this award, it's his influence and dedication that should truly be honored."

In typical Carmichael fashion, even her final words on the essay made an impact in 40 characters or less tweet.

"OU? It's not the beginning or the end but the journey to inspire the rest. Here's the pen - how will your story read? #BOOMER."



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# FireLodge Tribal youth update: February 2016

By Darin Greene, FireLodge Tribal Youth Coordinator

Looking ahead, February will be a very busy month for the youth at the P.L.A.C.E. with our participants celebrating several events and programs.

In our G.E.T. Smart Program, the students will hopefully be shaking off those post-holiday break blues. With the new semester in gear, 95 percent of our youth turned in their progress reports with all showing some improvements to close out last month. We think that some of the improvements can be attributed to our 100 percent participation in our afternoon homework help sessions where students can get assistance right after the school bells toll. Our academic counselors, Ben Mcalister and Wilson Littlehead, will continue with their college prep class, doing their part to help improve the chances of getting our students on track for a higher education

In the G.E.T. Native Program the youth will be working on creating dream catchers while learning about their history and why they're tied to Native American culture. (Hint – they're not as culturally significant as some would have you believe).

Students will also learn about the history and significance of Wounded Knee in Indian Country. In other G.E.T. Native instruction, students will learn about the importance of the

American bison to the plains tribes and hear about the histories of famous Native American leaders like Geronimo, Tecumseh and Crazy Horse. Keeping with this theme, they'll also learn about the proud tradition of Native American Code Talkers in the U.S. Armed Forces and the role of tribes in the French and Indian War.

The House of Hope's Amanda Chapman will be working with our students to educate them on a four week dating violence prevention program. The sessions will be:

- What is teen dating violence?
- Understanding teen dating violence.
- Dating matters.
- Strategies to promote healthier teen relationships.

Our arts programs are also in full swing with the following projects:

- Valentine's Day Lip Sync Contest
- Valentines Art for Mom or Dad
- Teen Dating Violence Awareness Poster Contest
- Black History Month Collage Contest
- Fat Tuesday-Mardi Gras Art
- Healthy Heart Poster Contest (The winner of this will get tickets to a show at FireLake Arena show or with FireLake gift cards.)

In our G.E.T. Fit program, our youth will be finishing up the "lose



*Rodney Ray participates in a cultural activity lead by Cultural mentor Coby Lehman.*

it" with a deck of card program which at time of writing has become quite successful with both our participants and staff.

We've got other activities scheduled to keep the hearts pumping including:

- 3-on-3 Soccer
- Stickball
- Navajo Kickball
- Whiffle ball game – For the love of the game
- Arena Style Flag Football
- A 3-point Basketball Contest
- Hot Spot Contest
- Ping Pong Tournament
- P.L.A.C.E. Uno Tournament (If

you don't think this gets blood pumping, you've never had a skip card played on you.)

We're busy but always looking for new participants, so please reach out to me. If you would like to learn more about FireLodge Tribal Youth Program or the P.L.A.C.E., please contact me at [dgreen@potawatomi.org](mailto:dgreen@potawatomi.org).

**VISIT US ONLINE!**



CITIZENPOTAWATOMINATION



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CPN HOWNIKAN

# Citizen Potawatomi Nation BY THE NUMBERS LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT 4

## Age Groups

90-99	19
80-89	62
70-79	137
60-69	320
50-59	392
40-49	406
30-39	502
20-29	567
0-20	623

In terms of Tribal members, the most populous county in Kansas is Shawnee County.

Information provided by Citizen Potawatomi Nation Tribal Rolls

## 3,029 Tribal Members

Topeka	559
Wichita	212
Lawrence	135
Overland Park	71
Garden City	65
Manhattan	60
Rossville	58
Saint Marys	56
Kansas City	49

# Wanette Schools go wireless with CPN Information Technology Department

Amongst the many communities established inside the historical jurisdiction of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation was the small town of Wanette. Many residents are CPN Tribal members or members of other federally recognized tribes, while 47 percent of Wanette Public Schools students are of Native American descent.

Located in a somewhat remote portion of southern Pottawatomie County, its roughly 400 residents have never been able to have home Internet access. So in early 2015 when the school district qualified for a [School Improvement Grant](#), the small community was thrilled to hear that every student would have an iPad to use at school.

“Technology is where everything is going, so our top priority is to get modern equipment in our students’ hands to have them set up for success after they graduate,” said Superintendent Crystal Shaw.

However, education officials soon realized that they needed some assistance in connecting the new devices to the schools’ existing Internet infrastructure. The school superintendent reached out to CPN for assistance to help upgrade Wanette schools’ wireless Internet network. Tribal Information Technology Director Dennis Dyer, whose staff deals with such situations in its every day work, agreed to offer the Tribe’s assistance.

“Our end goal is to make sure small surrounding schools have everything they need to be successful and have the same chance as everyone else in the state,” said CPN IT Director Dennis Dyer. “On behalf of the Tribe, we feel it is our duty to see what we can do to help improve the education environment for the communities around us.”



CPN IT employees Linda Arredondo and Shanley Yates show Wanette Public Schools Superintendent Crystal Shaw how the iPads connected to the network.

Dyer assigned Tribal member and CPN Assistant IT Director Linda Arredondo, to head up the project.

“When we first went down there, we were only expecting to install wireless routers throughout the school,” said Arredondo. “Very quickly though, we found out the system would need a complete overhaul.”

When Arredondo and CPN IT staff began to set up the wireless routers, they realized that Wanette’s existing network connectivity was undersized and outdated.

“This was like having a governor on a Corvette that would only allow the car to go 30 mph,” explained Arredondo. “Our wireless routers were top of the line, but their outdated network would only allow them to perform at a low level.”

CPN IT professionals met with school officials and assessed the situation. It was ultimately decided that

secure network. United Systems also specializes in locking down IT systems for school safety reasons and provided this to the school’s new wireless network service.

“This wouldn’t have been possible if it wasn’t for CPN. We are grateful for every minor detail they’ve helped us with,” said Shaw.

Wanette students returned from the holiday break with a large digital cloud hanging over their spring semester.

“Although the process was slow, the students came back from their break to the newly installed wireless Internet,” proclaimed Shaw. “CPN is always willing to help out in the community and we are thankful they understand what this means to the students.”

While the students are sure to enjoy the use of the iPads, the new wireless infrastructure will also assist educators as they perform the state-mandated testing regimen, which is done online. The Tribe has long partnered with the community for a variety of services given that so many members and employees live there. Since 2007 CPN has provided water to the town of Wanette through Rural Water District 3 at a commercial rate, and this latest project was almost \$30,000 in equipment and man hours.

“It’s about community,” concluded CPN’s Dyer. “Reliable Internet access is as important as electricity and a safe building when it comes to educating our kids, so while it was a lot of work, it was definitely a worthwhile investment for us.”

## College-age Potawatomi, this is the program for you!



### What is the PLP?

The six-week Potawatomi Leadership Program brings a group of young tribal members from around the world to Shawnee, Oklahoma to learn about the government, culture, and economic development of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

For more information, please contact CPN Education Director  
Tlesia Zientek at [tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org](mailto:tesia.zientek@potawatomi.org)

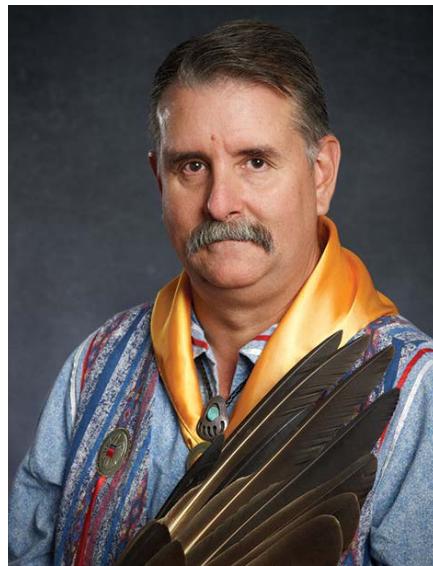
To read student perspectives and apply, visit [plp.potawatomi.org](http://plp.potawatomi.org)

# Wesselhöft, Schmidlkofer to retain seats

In Tribal elections, two seats were up for the 2016 election season. Oklahoma-based legislators Paul Wesselhöft - who represents the at-large District 9 seat – and Paul Schmidlkofer of the at-large District 12 seat – are set to retain their positions in the Tribal legislature. No opponents filed to contest either's re-elections.

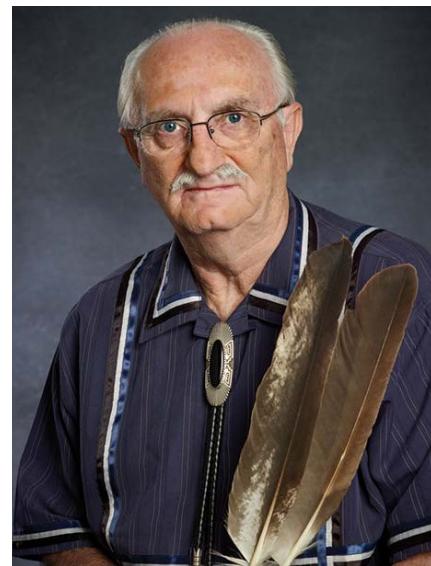
The formal election will take place on June 25, 2016 at the annual CPN Family Reunion Festival. Also on the ballot will be the annual Tribal budget.

In the coming months, the CPN Tribal Election Committee will mail voter ballot request forms to all registered Citizen Potawatomi Tribal members across the world to cast a ballot on the annual budget. For those members in Oklahoma, they will cast absentee ballots. Tribal members are encouraged to update their contact information with the CPN Tribal Rolls office at 405-878-5830 as soon as possible to ensure they receive a ballot request form.



*Paul Schmidlkofer*

Schmidlkofer is a Pottawatomie County resident, having gone to high school in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. He currently works as an instructor at the pre-engineering academy at Gordon Cooper Technology Center in Shawnee. He is the son of a former Tribal chairman, and under the previous form of government, served on the CPN Grievance Committee.



*Paul Wesselhöft*

"The Nation has given so much to me over the years I always felt it was my responsibility to give something back. My dad always imparted the sense of duty to others in us as kids, so helping the Nation was always a natural move," said Schmidlkofer in an October Hownikan article.

In addition to his service as District 9 Legislator, Wesselhöft is also an Oklahoma State Representative for

District 54, which encompasses the communities of Moore, Valley Brook and southwestern portions of Oklahoma City. The Moore Republican is also a founding member of the Oklahoma State Legislature's Native American Caucus. An ordained Southern Baptist minister, Wesselhöft is a former Army Chaplain and Gulf War veteran, as well as a member of the CPN Veteran's Organization.

Wrote Wesselhöft in an emailed statement, "We are the only American tribe with a national legislature, which we can take considerable pride in. It has been my honor and responsibility to represent my state of Oklahoma in this governmental body. Although, I directly represent my state, I look forward to serving the citizens of the Potawatomi Nation no matter what state you live in. I thank you citizens and friends of my tribe for your confidence in my re-election and service to our nation. If I can be of service to you, please let me know."

## Wadase update: February 2016

By Bree Dunham,  
CPN Eagle Aviary

Here at the aviary we are preparing for the next round of winter weather but the wildlife around us is already gearing up for spring.

Early morning before the sun made its way above the horizon, the largest group of turkeys we counted to date made their way into the open pasture of the aviary grounds. The large toms have already begun their courtship displays, each one doing his best to win the most hens. The young twin bucks of the year passed cautiously through the tall grass near the tree line but their attempt to go unnoticed failed as a large buck bounded into the open with a loud bellow and disapproving snort, letting anyone else nearby know that he had claimed this territory. Midday we heard territorial calls from the eagles. Searching the sky and hoping to spot Wadasé, we

saw a pair of adult bald eagles high above the aviary. They were circling each other and as they passed close to one another we could hear them vocalizing. On one pass they reached out and locked talons and tumbled through the air towards the ground. After five or six complete cartwheels they released each other and continued on towards the river. Although we were thrilled to see the pair's acrobatics, we both admitted we were disappointed that it wasn't Wadasé Zhabwé flying in for a visit.

Wadasé hasn't been back to visit since Nov. 10, 2015. She continues to spend most of her time between McLoud and Harrah along the North Canadian River and Horseshoe Lake. We have received a number of calls from individuals that have spotted her in the area recently.

However, our trips to locate her have, once again, been unsuccessful. Those trips haven't been completely unproductive though. Since Oklahoma's



*The territorial buck that claims the pasture of the aviary as his own domain.*

record rainfall last spring, many of the areas around the rivers that bald eagles frequent have been drastically changed. So while we haven't seen Wadasé on our trips, we have taken time to check the nest sites that we have documented while tracking her. Almost all of the nest sites were active and at least one, if not two eagles could be spotted near the nest.

At one nest site, the bank of the river has fallen away with the floodwaters and is close to being lost to the river. However, there are two nests at this location and hopefully the parents will choose the one that is further away from the water's edge. While we wait for permission to gain access to more of the property around Horseshoe Lake Power Plant, we

will continue to monitor her telemetry and local nest sites.

In just a few short months Wadasé will have been thriving on her own in the wild for three years. As we continue to gain valuable information from the telemetry data, we are reminded how fortunate we are to continue to share her story. As always we encourage you to keep your eyes out for Wadasé if you are near the areas she frequents. To follow her movements with us you can visit [www.arcgis.com/home](http://www.arcgis.com/home) and search for "Potawatomi eagle." Send your encounters with Wadasé or any other eagles in Oklahoma or wherever you may to the CPN Aviary at [aviary@potawatomi.org](mailto:aviary@potawatomi.org).



*Toms strutting in the pasture.*



Bozho, Nikanek  
(Hello, my friends)

Our Tribe is working very hard to improve its relationships with the towns and counties around us. Because we are the largest employer and one of the major driving forces behind the local economy, it is important that the people in these communities, who are not one of our Tribal citizens or a citizen of another tribe, have a basic understanding of the concept of tribal sovereignty.

During the nearly 40 years which I have served in elected Tribal office, I have become familiar with the look on most people's faces when I tell them our Tribe has its own government which is independent of the city, county or state. They do not understand it when I tell them we collect sales taxes from our businesses and those who operate their private business on Tribal land. The most difficult part for them to understand is the idea that those

## Tribal Chairman - John "Rocky" Barrett

pieces of property, owned by CPN, are held "in trust" by the United States and are simply "not in Oklahoma" or subject to Oklahoma law.

The basis for that legal separation is a combination of federal and Tribal law and decisions by the United States Supreme Court which have created what is termed "Indian Country" in Oklahoma. Oklahoma is unique in its history, having been created from dissolution of five independent Indian Nations called the "Five Civilized Tribes" (Choctaw, Chickasaw, Cherokee, Creek, and Seminole) and portions of lands that were granted to 34 other Indian tribes by treaties which were broken or abolished under federal law. The only true "Indian Reservation" created under the Indian Reorganization Act of 1924 was for the Osage Nation. It too was abolished and individual allotments were forcibly created in the same manner as the other tribal land holdings in what later became Oklahoma.

The federal law that created the state of Oklahoma, called the "Enabling Act," went to great lengths to emphasize that the lands not seized from tribes for settlers in the new state were not subject to the taxing authority of the state. The Oklahoma Constitution

even states that Indian lands are not to be taxed. The legal basis for the authority of Congress to do this goes all the way back to the 1830s.

President Andrew Jackson pushed a bill through Congress in 1830 to remove all Indian tribes to land west of the Mississippi River. This came about because of a decision by the United States Supreme Court case in 1823 called *Johnson v. McIntosh*. Chief Justice John Marshall ruled that Indians were not citizens and had no constitutional protection of their property under a legal concept called the "Doctrine of Discovery," which said Indians could only "occupy" the land and not own it by aboriginal title. This solved Marshall's constitutional dilemma of the federal government's taking of Indian land without compensation and doing so under federal authority, overruling any sale of land by an Indian or Indian tribe, or resolution of land ownership disputes in state courts. This was the first case in what is called the *Marshall Trilogy*, all based on the then on-going dispute with the Cherokee Nation and its removal from the State of Georgia.

The second U.S. Supreme Court case in the Marshall trilogy was in 1831, after the

passage of the Indian Removal Act, and called *Cherokee v. Georgia*. Marshall ruled that Indian Tribal Governments, specifically the Cherokee Nation, did not possess the same sovereign status as a foreign country, thereby affording the Cherokee access to United States Courts under the Constitution. Instead, tribes were called "domestic dependent nations." He ruled that the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution gave the federal government exclusive rights to deal with Indian Tribes and the State of Georgia's courts and laws could not dictate to the Cherokee or remove them. President Jackson resisted that rule and said "Marshall made his ruling, now let him enforce it," refusing to help the Cherokee against Georgia.

The third case of the Marshall Trilogy is *Worcester v. Georgia* in 1832. Chief Justice Marshall actually tried to reverse some of the injustice of the "Doctrine of Discovery" in this case by ruling that the State of Georgia could not pass laws regulating Cherokee land because that land was held "in trust" by the United States for the "dependent" Indian Tribes who possessed, by virtue of aboriginal history, certain "sovereign rights" to govern themselves.

This history is important to us because it defines our sovereignty, which the state government in Oklahoma is trying to take away at this very moment. We are in court on a case that could change Indian law precedent which has stood for almost 180 years.

When you can, please look up the "Marshall Trilogy." It is a fascinating read about the history of our country that really hits home when you consider that the *Cherokee v. Georgia* case in 1832 set a precedent that stopped the Potawatomi lawsuit for the same purpose – removal without just compensation and the right of legal redress. Your great-great-great grandfathers met in council and hired lawyers in 1831 and 1832 to fight the same issue. This history becomes personal to us. It will also help you explain to your friends and neighbors why we are in court, and why we have federal law on our side.

Thank you for the honor of serving as your Tribal Chairman.

*Migwetch,*

John Barrett

*Keweoge*

"He leads them home"  
Tribal Chairman



Winter Storm Crew

As I look at the sunshine today, hours before New Years Day of 2016, I realize how fortunate we are to have recovered from being engulfed with ice and snow the day after Christmas. By Monday, Dec. 28, the roads were treacherous. A number of our employees could not make it to work, but most endured the roads and highways to arrive safely.

As usual, our employees do a tremendous job in clearing the sidewalks, parking lots and driveways around the Tribal complex and other businesses. It is not an easy task when the ice hits the ground for several hours prior to the falling snow. In fact, at the time of writing, Dec. 30, and despite the bright sun

## Vice-Chairman - Linda Capps

light, we still have workers clearing the parking lots.

The annual meeting at CPN to help prepare for winter storms occurred the first day of December. All directors and managers of departments that are involved with grounds' maintenance in any form, and heavy equipment of various kinds were in attendance. It takes over 40 employees to conduct the clean-up operation. In other words, it is a massive tactical operation to deal with the diverse locations that the Nation has to manage during a winter storm cleanup.

The CPN Emergency Management staff plans the meeting and disseminates information and assignments to the workers. Locations, hours of concern, priority and responsibility of departments are the main discussion items at the meeting. With over 30 CPN locations, some of which are up to several acres in size, only a municipality can compare with the undertaking of a winter storm cleanup at our Tribe.

Regardless of how cold it gets and how dreaded the



*A huge cottonwood tree succumbed to the 50 mph winds on Squirell Creek at the CPN Festival Grounds during the storm. Cleanup is underway.*

conditions, our winter storm workers never fail to man their posts. It is certainly not a joyful job when considering the hours and temperatures. We cannot overlook the fact that many of our enterprises are open 24/7, which makes the mission even more challenging. The blowing snow and ice with winds up to 50 mph (for this particular storm) feels like it cuts right through you. My deep appreciation goes out to all of our

employees involved with the cleanup duty. They "weathered the storm" to provide safe surroundings for our employees, health clinic patients, customers and housing residents. I applaud each and every worker who was a part of that supreme effort.

Looking ahead in 2016, my fervent wish is that our CPN members and their families have a happy and prosperous new year! I look forward

to seeing as many of you as possible during the upcoming year.

*Migwetch,*

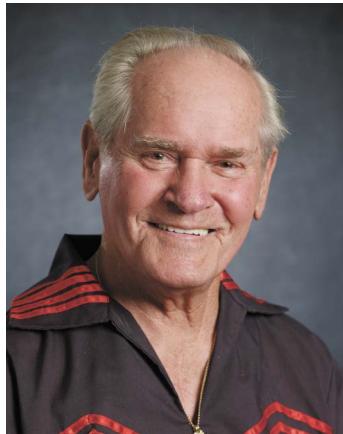
Linda Capps

Vice Chairman

405-275-3121 office

405-650-1238 cell

[lcapps@potawatomi.org](mailto:lcapps@potawatomi.org)



Bozho Nikan,

Another Christmas past and 2015 is now history. Christmas and New Year's Eve are very special holidays in this house. Christmas, of course is a time when our family comes together. The gift giving and watching the anticipation on the faces of the

## District 1 - Roy Slavin

little ones (and us old guys) is great. I'll talk a bit more about my gift later.

New Year's Eve with friends is a very special time also. We have a neighborhood group that has been welcoming the New Year in for the past forty years. In our earlier times we went out for dinner and dance, then it became dinner and to someone's home to celebrate the new year. Now it is dinner and home to watch the ball drop on TV.

I have written about our CPN website – [www.Potawatomi.org](http://www.Potawatomi.org) - in past articles. I am impressed every time I visit the

site. There is such a wealth of information available there. You can find most any information you need about your Nation there. The directors of each department are listed along with their contact information and I have always found them very willing to help and answer any questions you may have.

For example, under services you will find the topics Career, Community, Education, Health, Tag Office, Housing, Citizenship, Veterans, Community and Business Development, Elders, Transportation, Office of Environmental Health and Real Estate Services.

Under the topic of culture you will find eagle aviary (one of my favorite places) and the latest adventures of *Wadase*.

Now about my Christmas gift. As you may remember in previous articles I have advocated walking as a great form of exercise. (I read somewhere that sitting is the new smoking). For my Christmas gift my wife Julia gave me a "Fit Bit Charge" you wear like a watch. It keeps a record of steps taken each day, flights of stairs climbed, heart rate, miles walked, calories burned, total steps to date, etc. You may also set a program to track

your weight. It also monitors your sleep patterns. What a great gift for us health nuts. Here's to walking and good health to everyone in the coming year. Happy new year to all.

As always, I may be reached by e-mail at [rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org) – [rslavin@gmail.com](mailto:rslavin@gmail.com) or snail mail at 6730 Tower Drive, Kansas City, MO 64151.

Netagtege (Roy)  
[rslavin@potawatomi.org](mailto:rslavin@potawatomi.org)



Bozho nikanek/Hello friends,

It's been lovely to hear feedback about "Winter Stories" and to know that whole families now are hearing the stories you shared over the last few years. In connection with the "Winter Stories" mailing, I appreciated receiving address updates from you. If your home mailing or email address changes during the year, please contact both Tribal Rolls with the updated information, and your CPN Legislator. We represent you but we are not given access to contact information available in Tribal Rolls. And if I am your Legislator and don't have your details yet, please provide them -- I will keep

## District 2 - Eva Marie Carney

them confidential, email you from time to time during the month with District 2 -specific information or requests, and quickly remove you from my email list if you tire of the emails! *Migwetch*.

The theme of the seventh annual CPN District 2 Contest is "Words of Wisdom." While everyone who reads this column may enter, the contest winner must reside in District 2 and will receive a beautiful Pendleton blanket. I'll include the winning entry in an upcoming *Hownikan* column, then include the entries received in a book for an end of year mailing in December 2016. Please submit only family-friendly content, and if you are sharing a particular Potawatomi's words of wisdom (e.g., a grandparent's), provide the source, context, and Potawatomi family name. There is no limit on the number of entries, which should be sent to me by regular mail, email or Facebook messenger and must reach me by midnight,

Fri., April 15, 2015 to be considered for the prize.

With winter here, my thoughts are turning to reading up on our Tribal history and heritage and to preparation for summer powwows and dancing. Yours may be too. Recent Facebook posts have been helpful in both respects, offering recommendations for "essential" books and clear, helpful instruction, with many photos, posted by CPN District 2 citizen Lyle Simmons, for making a pair of traditional *mkesinin* (moccasins). [Lyle's instructions can be found here inside a CPN Facebook Group](#). All you need to do is request permission to join the group and click on the hyperlink above. Our Public Information Department is working on putting Lyle's instructions into a format for future use in the coming months.

A partial list of recently-recommended books:

- Alanson Skinner's

three-part series from the 1920s, "The Mascoutens or Prairie Potawatomis";

- Susan Sleeper-Smith's "Indian Women and French Men: Rethinking Cultural Encounter in the Western Great Lakes";
- David Chang's "The Color of the Land: Race, Nation, and the Politics of Landownership in Oklahoma, 1832-1929";
- R. David Edmunds' "The Potawatomis - Keepers of the Fire"

These books and many others are in the District 2 Library. You may borrow them on request. The current list of District 2 Library books is posted online at [www.evamariecarney.com](http://www.evamariecarney.com), under 'Services'.

Please RSVP today for the Fri., March 11, 2016 visit to the National Archives of the American Indian in Suitland, Maryland. Space is highly

limited, with priority given to first-time visitors. More details are on the 'Calendar' page of my website. Also, District 2 will have its second annual winter beading class on Sat., Mar. 12, 2016 from 10:30 am – 3:00 pm, at the District 2 office in Washington, D.C. (address in my signature block below). Lunch will be provided. Bob Richey/*Shaweno* will work with us on beading medallions for a medicine bag or *mkesinin*. Please RSVP by the end of February so I have time to order sufficient amounts of materials and lunch and can have your name on a list for the building security guard!

My best for the new year,

Legislator Eva Marie Carney  
*Ojindiskwe*  
[ecarney@potawatomi.org](mailto:ecarney@potawatomi.org)  
CPN Legislative District #2  
701 8<sup>th</sup> Street NW, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
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Bozho (Hello)

2016 will bring us five significant events that I urge you to become involved with. Four of the events involve voting and your vote is very important.

In March, the state of Texas will hold a vote for the representatives for your district as well as for the Texas railroad commissioner. Depending

## District 3 - Bob Whistler

upon where you live there may be other offices on the ballot.

In May many cities have their annual election where the individuals on the ballot may be commissioners, mayor or city council members. These are the folks who control your city spending and your local taxes. They actually have more impact upon your daily life than your federal representatives.

June brings in the CPN Family Festival during the last weekend of the month. On that Sat., June 25, you will be voting on one of the Tribal budget areas. Again, these are funds that are worthy of your review and attention.

The event in July does not

involve a vote, but is the opportunity for you to come to Shawnee and mingle with the members of the other Potawatomi nations who will be there this year for the Gathering of the Potawatomi Nations. This annual event moves from location to location each year and since it will be on our Tribal grounds means for those of you in Texas, it is within a fairly close travel distance.

The first Tuesday in November is what many consider the "big event" and is the election of the next president of the United States.

Voting in our country is a privilege that for some reason many fail to use. In the U.S. it is not uncommon for less than 15 percent of the

voters to vote. In city and state elections the turnout at times is under 10 percent of the registered voters.

I urge you to make sure you get registered to vote if you're not already registered. It is pitiful to see that 90 percent of the registered voters are willing to allow 10 percent control their destiny in many areas. Some of these in the long term could present financial burdens to some citizens. You want to have the best representatives who will support the areas that benefit you to be elected. The only way for you to have a hand in the game is to vote. So again, please use this privilege.

I serve at your pleasure, and am honored to represent you. If you find there is something

where I am needed to help in some way, please contact me.

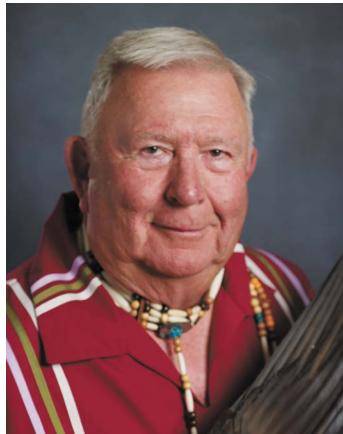
*Bama mine*, (later)

Bob Whistler / *Bmashi*  
(He soars)

Citizen Potawatomi Nation  
District 3 Representative  
112 Bedford, Rd, #116  
Bedford, TX 76022

817-282-0868 (Office)  
817-229-6271 (Cell)  
817-545-1507 (Home)

[Rwhistler@Potawatomi.org](mailto:Rwhistler@Potawatomi.org)  
[CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com](mailto:CPN3Legislator@yahoo.com)



## District 4 - Jon Boursaw

**Tribal history presentations:** I continue to receive invitations to give my CPN history presentation from a variety of sources such as civic organizations, schools and churches. Recently I gave the following two presentations:

**Silver Lake Methodist Men's Club:** Since the community of Silver Lake was established during the time the Nation was on the Potawatomi Reservation, I added a couple of slides to

the presentation that were specific to Silver Lake. These slides were maps that I had received from the Kansas Historical Society. The first map showed the areas on reservation that had been allotted by the Treaty of 1861. The map showed that the area around Silver Lake was totally allotted. The second map displayed the land plots around Silver Lake in 1873. I was able to highlight on the slide the few remaining plots that were still owned by CPN members. The only Tribal names associated with these plots that I could identify were Beaubein, Kennedy, Lafromboise, Vieux and Ogee. Actually these families held multiple tracts of land around Silver Lake at that time. I also was able to offer the group what I know of the history of Louis Ogee and what we call the Ogee House which is located one

fourth of a mile east of Silver Lake on U.S. Route 24. This house was originally built in 1827 and is still being lived in today. The Ogee family lived in this house during the period of time we were on the reservation until the early 1900s. Louis Ogee (1826-1880) was my great-great-grandfather, and is buried in the Silver Lake Cemetery.

**Military Order of the World Wars:** This happens to be one of the military organizations to which I belong. The group is comprised of military officers, current, retired or former of the U.S. military services and reserve components. In February this organization is hosting a two-day youth leadership conference for students from the greater Topeka high schools. For the second year I am serving as

the conference director. The list of speakers for this year's conference include a Kansas Supreme Court justice; a bank president; a Shawnee County commissioner; and the Topeka chief of police, who is also the command senior enlisted adviser for the Kansas National Guard.

**Support a Tribal member-owned business:** The Grounded Coffee House, at 444 N. Main St in Rossville, is owned and operated by Sarene McCrory, a descendent of the Vieux family. She has been in business since August 2007. Daily she offers a large selection of specialty lattes and other great non-coffee drinks. Her most popular latte is the Bulldawg Bite. Other drink offerings include Raspberry Truffle, 360 and Zebra. Her Frappes include Java Chip, Toffee Mocha, Chocolate

Mint, Cake Batter, Cookies and Cream and many more. In addition to all of this she serves biscuits and gravy daily. Also a small selection of gift items are available. Her hours are Mon-Fri from 6:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and Sat. from 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Stop by the Grounded Coffee House and introduce yourself to Sarene and have a cup of her coffee.

*Migwetch,*

Jon Boursaw, *Wetase Mkok*  
CPN District 4 Rep.  
(O) 785-861-7272  
(C) 785-608-1982  
2007 SW Gage Blvd  
Topeka, KS 66604  
[jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org](mailto:jon.boursaw@potawatomi.org)

Office Hours:  
Tuesday 9-11 a.m.  
Thursday 3-5 p.m.  
Other times - Please call



## District 5 - Gene Lambert

time at work than with all the people, places and things we love.

I am privileged, or should say blessed, to love what I do. Am I crazy about 100 percent of it? Of course not! Let's say I love 95 percent of what I do. The paperwork portion is a real bore to me so I thank God for all the people who love detail. They are special people in my book.

I love serving as a Legislator for District 5 on the committee for Education, Health and Welfare of our people.

I also work with a college as the Tribal liaison and have held that title for many years. That being the case, there are many other opportunities to serve those seeking higher education to better their everyday wellbeing. What's not to love about that?

Once again "I benefit" being in a position to assist and coach Native American students who are a link in that very long chain of success-

sion. I benefit because I learn a great deal more from them than I could ever teach.

The sacrifices they go through to learn; children, jobs, families and the money to pay for their education. I wonder how they step over the barriers to get to graduation. Now that is love and or passion for a goal they have set for themselves.

There is an organization I work with here in Arizona called the Nineteen Tribal Nations Workforce Development Act., a group of 19 Arizona Tribes who network about scholarships, government grants, WIA, WIOA, donations and other items for those who have little hope of earning enough money to do it alone.

Of course it isn't just about the money. Sometimes it is about self-esteem and the feeling of "can't." Someone told them they couldn't and they believed it. *I love to ignite the fire in them so they know "they can!"* The group

meets yearly and various subjects are chosen for training, updating for a growing native population. This year the focus was on 'Innovation, Change and Creativity.'

*I love being a part of that.*

At each conference there is always someone there who has a wonderful Potawatomi story to tell. This last December it was about the way we do things organizationally. I listened to the conversation at the table then proudly announced 'I am from the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.'

*Suddenly I was special. I LOVE IT!!*

The year before there was a lady from the Hopi Nation who said our people were very good to her and raised her after both her parents died when she was very young.

*I love the hearts of our people and am always proud to say "I am Citizen Potawatomi!"*

When you watch someone reach their goals and have the opportunity to walk with them it is as if "you" made it. The tears of joy I see when they reach their first real goal is truly exciting.

I would wish for you that same love in what you do. Seriously; love what you do and you will never work a day in your life!

The statement can reach any heights or depths and on any subject if it is a part of your life. Love it! Or get it out of your life!

The more you love, the more love you have.

Have a wonderful Valentine's Day only duplicate that thought each and every day for the rest of the year and see if I am telling the truth!

Eunice Imogene Lambert

District 5

# Hownikan

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma

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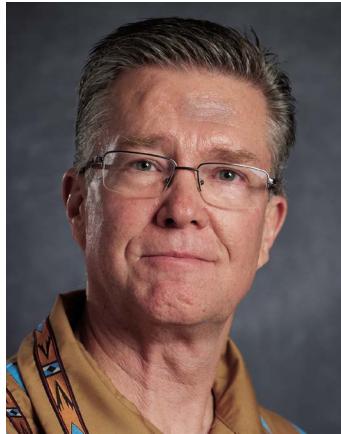
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Address changes should be sent to: Citizen Potawatomi Tribal Rolls,

1601 S. Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.



Bozho Nikanek,

I hope your year is off to a great start. Unfortunately, we saw 2015 come to a tragic close with the Dec. 2 terrorist attack in San Bernardino. While the impact was felt across the country, for those of us who call southern California home, the event

## District 6 - Rande K. Payne

brought us face-to-face with the fact that terrorists have the capability of striking anywhere at any time. And it seems there is no shortage of desire to inflict as much pain and suffering on their targets as they possibly can. My heart breaks for the families of those innocent victims whose lives will never be the same. This is the worst kind of reminder that we should never take the time we have with loved ones for granted.

We are in the midst of the *bbon* (winter) season and fortunately it's shaping up to be a wet one. Water in our state has become an issue both literally and politically.

For our early ancestors, the winter months meant that much of their time would be spent gathering, hunting, trapping, fishing and preparing food for storage. It's hard to even imagine growing, gathering and storing food as a full time job. It would have most likely been even harder for our ancestors to imagine not having an adequate supply of water and the modern day politics of dealing with the issue.

Other *bbon* (winter) fun facts include but are not limited to: the winter color is white, the winter direction is north and the winter medicine is *wishkjemishkos* (sweet-

grass). Winter is also the direction of the elders and the time when the spirits sleep so that winter stories can be told. *Bbon* is also thought to be a time of cleansing for mother earth.

In case I have failed to mention it in past columns, I would like to recommend a program on RFD TV (channel 231 on Dish Network) called Hidden Heritage. The program is focused on presenting Native American culture and modern day life. I'm looking forward to this week's episode that will be spotlighting the Potawatomi Trails Powwow in Wisconsin.

Wisdom from the Word: "In my distress I prayed to the Lord, and he answered me and rescued me. He is for me! How can I be afraid? What can mere man do to me?" Psalm 118: 5-6

*Migwetch! Bama pi!*

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Bozho,

The second week of January, I received a Fed Ex Ground package of eagle feathers from the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife in Colorado. That's always exciting for several reasons. One is that it takes so long and is such a process, that when the feathers arrive, you feel like you actually have accomplished something. These feathers were higher quality tail feathers from a bald eagle. When I made the

## District 8 - Dave Carney

request, I had asked for 10 loose quality feathers.

As many CPN members know, Potawatomi use eagle feathers in our ceremonies. Eagles are a protected species and trade in their feathers is prohibited by federal law. As a Native American you may apply to receive and transport within the United States eagle feathers for religious purposes. Giving eagle feathers to "non-Indians" can land you in a lot of trouble, but as with most things, the roadmap is not that clear. For example, what about members of tribes that are not recognized by the federal government? I've seen members of Oregon's Chinook Tribe and Washington's Duwamish Tribe use eagle feathers at gatherings – who would even attempt to stop them and further the ridicu-

lousness of them not having federal recognition? A high ranking tribal government official of one of these tribes told me, "I'd like to see them try to stop us."

Many Citizen Potawatomi give feathers as gifts to family members for special events like high school and college graduation, the birth of a child or receiving an "Indian name." While our own aviary at the Nation is inundated with requests from our more than 32,000 members, the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife remains a resource for feathers and eagle parts. But as the old saying goes be careful what you ask for.

Several years ago, I asked for a pair of eagle wings in order to create a fan. One fact that must be remembered when

ordering eagle parts is that these animals die in the wild and their bodies are in a state of decomposition prior to being collected and shipped. When the parts arrived, they were shipped in dry ice and, after inspecting the parts, I placed them in my home freezer until I was ready to work with them. This also kills off some of the parasites that may be present. When I was able to begin, a priority was removing the meat from the wing bones by scraping and soaking in a solution of warm water and Borax. Any parts that are removed in the process must be treated respectfully and destroyed by fire. It took some wood working skills to craft the handle and some craft skills to wrap the handle in elk skin and decorate. Needless to say, this was a difficult process and very time con-

suming. I made the one eagle wing fan and gladly gave the other to an elder CPN Tribal member so that he could create a fan for himself.

I'd encourage anyone who has loose feathers or a fan to keep them in a cedar box which will also help keep parasites away. If a cedar box is not an option, or while it is being created, I would advise the use of a tightly sealed zip lock style bag.

For more information about the U.S. Fish and Wildlife program and Native Americans, go to: [cpn.news/USFWE](http://cpn.news/USFWE)

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Bozho,

**On Smudging Ceremonies**  
Before you get too critical about this subject, hear me out. There have been numerous questions that people have asked me on why we

## District 10 - David Barrett

do smudging at certain functions. Allow me to waive my rights in being an authority on this matter to render a humble opinion from my own research and personal take. In my opinion, there is no absolute right or wrong – only how one wants to handle "smudging" for one's self.

Smudging can be thought of as a purification ceremony or a Native American healing ceremony. Our living relatives such as sage, sweetgrass or cedar, are used in this ceremony. They are gathered fresh in a ritual where only

what is needed is taken and something is often given back. For example, some will leave tobacco, (natural tobacco, not a chemical-full tobacco), as an offering for the plants. Tobacco is also being a sacred medicine and is not to be overused or abused.

The plants used are four sacred medicines within the teachings of our medicine wheel. Tobacco comes from the East direction and represents balance. Sweetgrass comes from the south and represents kindness. Cedar is the western direction and

represents harmony. Finally, sage is the northern direction and represents protection from negativity. This may vary among Native Americans.

When smudging, one will place the plants as a mixture in an abalone shell and light it. There are different Native ways of starting this fire. You use an eagle feather (connection to the Creator) to keep the smoke active. You do not use your breath to keep the smudge going, as it would be giving your strength away. When lighting smudge, one will face east, the direction of

the beginning, of birth. One will often "wash" their hands in the smoke, before bringing some to the eyes, mouth and ears to protect us from hearing, seeing and speaking no evil. You can "wash" smoke over your head, up and down your arms (bringing smoke up your left arm, you are bringing strength in) and (going down your right arm, you are giving part of yourself), you can also smoke your legs and behind you. In conclusion you can bring smoke to your heart and end by thanking the person who holds the smudge, *migwetch*. If you are the one



## District 10 - David Barrett

preparing the smudge you can conclude with your own prayer thanking the Creator for guidance, strength, and protection. Usually most ceremonies (Healing, Pipe, Naming and Prayer Circles) end with saying "All my relations." The ancestors, centuries ago, all sat in a circle and talked it out. This is how problems were solved, how healing took place. At the end of a prayer circle, the elder would often say concluding words or a prayer.

Smudging, in my opinion, isn't replacing our Christian beliefs of our Creator, "God". I'm a believer in the teachings of Christianity and am pleased to be surprised at

the similarity between many of the Anishnabe stories and the stories of the Bible. Some people ask me how I felt about smudging and especially how to explain it to their children, myself included. The Citizen Potawatomi have a 300-year history of Christian belief due to the Catholic "Black Robes" who traveled with French explorers. We were the "Mission Potawatomi" before we were the Citizen Band.

Understanding the symbolism of the Seven Prayers is very important as also understanding why the Creation story is the basis for all of our ceremonies. When in a mixed group, I feel some

who don't understand the symbolism in our traditional ways and beliefs feel uncomfortable.

Language Director Justin Neely commented saying. "Our traditional ways aren't about 'me,' or 'I'. They're about us, our community and putting the good of the tribe first while looking seven generations into the future and seven generations into the past. How are your actions today going to affect your child, grandchildren and great grandchildren? How do your actions embody the beliefs of your ancestors?"

As a Legislator, Tribal member, parent and grandpar-

ent, what and how I explain what I feel will carry a lot of weight on how these young minds incorporate respect of our ancestor's traditional ways and beliefs in their daily lives while maintaining a sound spiritual growth in our Christian belief in the son of God, Jesus Christ.

In conclusion, we shouldn't fear that practicing traditional ways will alter your Christian belief system, no matter what faith you are as a Potawatomi (Catholic, Protestant, Jewish, etc.) This journey is always left to how each individual wants to incorporate these practices (the smudging ceremony) into their Christian life.

We should always show respect wherever we are to not be critical of the ceremony or customs of others if they don't do it the way we are doing it. Learn from your Journey.

It goes without saying, thank you for allowing me to represent you and our great Nation.

*Migwetch,*

David Barrett / *Mnedobe*  
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## District 13 - Bobbi Bowden

to don regalia in the powwow arena.

Having proper regalia on – as opposed to open toed shoes, spaghetti straps and cutoff t-shirts – is as important in the powwow arena as being properly addressed when entering a house of worship.

Each year I am touched by the sight of the families attending Festival who show a true desire to learn about our Tribe's history and traditions. It was my honor and pleasure to speak with a few of our elders about regalia and there is always something for them to teach me.

Regalia can get very expensive, so I don't mean that someone should spend a lot all at once. I try to add a new piece to my regalia each year. Please do not let the expense or any lack of knowledge overwhelm you though. We are blessed to have so many Tribal members and employees who are more than willing to share their knowledge and give direction on where to begin putting your regalia together.

Our Citizen Potawatomi Nation Cultural Heritage Center often offers regalia making classes, which will be restarting soon. Visit their

website ([www.potawatomi-heritage.com](http://www.potawatomi-heritage.com)) or their Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CPNCulturalHeritage](http://www.facebook.com/CPNCulturalHeritage)) for the announcements in the coming weeks. They have all that you need – including the sewing machines, instructors and materials inside FireLake Gift Shop – that you need. It takes time and patience, but believe me, when powwow time comes and you're walking inside the arena with your family, all the work is worth it.

I am more than happy to help and or get you in touch with those that will direct you on the right path. If I may be of

any assistance please feel free to call or email me and I will do my very best to help!

It is an honor and a pleasure to serve you and our great Nation.

*Migwetch,*

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## OKLAHOMA INDIAN NATIONS DIRECTORY

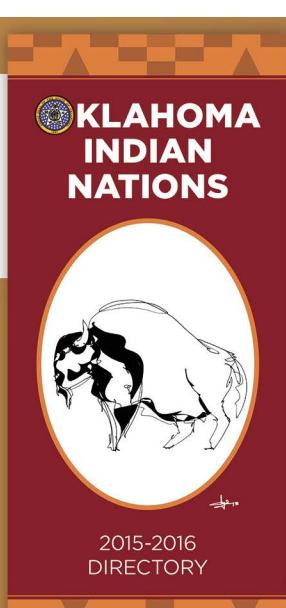
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Please help the CPN Housing Authority by completing a survey! The information from this survey will help the CPN Housing Authority determine what housing services to continue or develop for Oklahoma residents. If you're a CPN tribal member and an Oklahoma resident, visit [cpn.news/HousingQ2016](http://cpn.news/HousingQ2016) to take the survey online. If you would like to have the survey mailed to your home please call (800) 880-9880 and ask for either Sherry Byers or Tia Stewart.

# WALKING ON

## Niki Correll



Niki Correll (Willa Mae Atkinson) passed away on Oct. 25, 2015. She was born in Harrah, Oklahoma on Sept. 12, 1928. She was the daughter of Clifford Earl Atkinson and Helen Isabel Barnes. She had one younger sister, Cari (Caroline Rae Atkinson Orr).

Niki, her mother and sister moved from Oklahoma to Redlands, California in 1942 where she graduated from high school and went on to receive her Associate of Arts degree at San Bernardino Valley College. It was during Methodist youth summer camp in Idyllwild, that she met her husband to be Vince. They were married on June 9, 1950 at Long Beach. In 1955, the family moved to West Los Angeles where she lived until 1969.

While living in Brentwood, Niki served as P.T.A. President of Kenter Canyon Elementary School and as a Brownie and Girl Scout troop leader. During the family's 1965-66 sabbatical year in Europe, Niki kept a comprehensive diary of their travels through 24 countries in a Volkswagen camping bus.

In 1981, Vince ended his career as a school superintendent and they started a new business in Fresno providing executive office space, telephone answering and word processing to entrepreneurs and small businesses. That business became Valley Oak Executive Suites, which continues today. Niki was key in graciously receiving clients and providing support services. Through all of this, in Brentwood, Tustin, Hanford and Fresno, she was always the welcoming "go to" neighborhood mom who had snacks and thoughtful words for legions of kids and young adults passing through the Correll household. Niki's tasty cookies, little bit of everything in the fridge soups, and famous baked Christmas rings were universally appreciated.

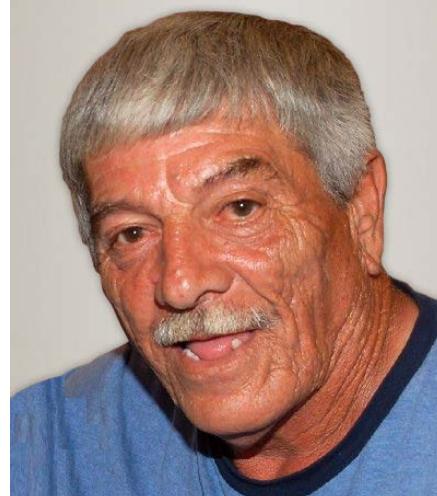
If one got to know Niki, she would share her Native-American ancestry as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. This special heritage she and the family proudly acknowledged through her grandmother, Lavinia Barnes. She was very pleased to attend the Tribal Reunion Festival in 2010, with most of her kids and grandkids honoring all Muller family descendants. Unfortunately, during the past five years or so, Niki's ability to do everyday tasks became increasingly difficult as dementia stole her away from us. Noni didn't make cookies anymore and she forgot birthdays.

That was something very unlike her. And it continued to get worse. She knew she was drifting away, but neither we, nor her doctors could do much to stop it.

Niki is survived by her husband, Vincent Ira Correll, Jr.; and their three children, Craig Owen Correll, Susan Lynn Kehler, and Melinda Ellen Franklin. She is also survived by her grandchildren, Eric Owen D'Ambrosio-Correll, Victoria Ann Correll, Amanda Leigh Kehler, Adam David Kehler, Hannah Susan Norman, Rebekah Sheila Hanson, Lucas James Franklin; and one great grandchild, Owen John Samuel Norman.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that a donation be made in her name to the Alzheimer's Association [http://www.alz.org/join\\_the\\_cause\\_donate.asp](http://www.alz.org/join_the_cause_donate.asp). So have a See's Candy, sip a bit of Bailey's Irish Cream and enjoy the daisies. Niki would like that.

## Randell Leo Compton



Randell Leo Compton died November 23, 2015 in Purcell at the age of 66 years 3 months 4 days.

Randell was born August 19, 1949 in Trousdale, Oklahoma to Claude and Jessie Mae (Peltier) Compton. He was raised and attended school in Wanette. Randell married Doris Jean Idlett on May 1, 1973 in Gainsville, Texas and made their home in the Lexington/Wanette area.

Randell was a hard working general contractor who took pride in his work. He enjoyed many activities but spending time with his family, grilling out and at family reunions was his favorite. He loved the family Sunday dinner time. Randell also enjoyed hunting, playing volleyball, playing games and was always telling stories.

Randell spent many years on the School Board and enjoyed going to livestock shows and supporting the FFA. He was always helping others when and where he could. Randell enjoyed playing Farkle with Doris and accused her of cheating when he didn't win a hand.

Randell is preceded in death by his parents: Claude and Jesse Compton; brother: John Wayne Compton; and granddaughter: Tori Compton. Survivors include his wife Doris; daughters: Bonnie Gregg and husband, Darrell, Tina Burden, Teresa Compton; brother: Claude Delane Compton and wife, Paula; sisters: Shirley Black and husband, Chester, Karen Aguilar and husband, Sonny; grandchildren: Rebecca Compton, Brooklyn Burden, Emily Gregg, Jacob Gregg, Billy Hinkle; great grandchild: Hank Hinkle and many other relatives and friends.

Online condolences may be made at [www.wadleysfuneralservice.com](http://www.wadleysfuneralservice.com).

## Joan Elizabeth Green



Joan Elizabeth Green was born October 18, 1931 in Slaton, Texas and passed away May 15, 2015 in Dallas. Joan was still working three days a week by choice and enjoying an active social life with friends and family. She died suddenly from an apparent heart arrhythmia.

Joan is preceded in death by her parents, George and Lillian Green of Slaton; brothers, George Green, Earl Green, Bill Green, and Ken Green. Joan is survived by her only child, Charity Robin Green Heisig and son-in-law, Randy Heisig; granddaughter, Sara Stewart and her husband, Rustin Stewart; granddaughter, Abby Doerre and her husband, Ryan Doerre; sisters, Betty Orr, Venita Womack, and Mary Ruth Gossett; and countless nieces and nephews.

Joan was a longtime member of Ferguson Road Baptist Church. She

was also extremely proud of her Native American heritage as a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Tribe of Shawnee, Oklahoma. Her grandmother was MaryAnn Adell Bourassa who attended Sacred Heart.

She belonged to many professional organizations and her favorite service club was Pilot International where she proudly served as past president. Joan was a graduate of Slaton High School in the Class of 1949. She went on to college at Wayland Baptist, and then transferred to Mary Hardin-Baylor University in Belton, Texas where she received her bachelor's degree. After college, she taught second grade at West Ward in Slaton before moving to Dallas where she eventually began a long career in the insurance business. She started at Liberty Mutual but her happiest years were at Mullen Insurance Agency where she was still working days before her sudden passing.

Joan was also quite an artist with endless talent and creative abilities, but she was especially known for her positive attitude and infectious smile. Joan never had a bad day, and she made sure no one else did either! She battled and beat breast cancer like a champ without ever complaining. She loved people, loved life, loved her Lord, loved her friends, and loved her family. She will be missed more than we can imagine, but as believers we know that we will see her again. Our mom and Nana left us a legacy that we will carry proudly, and we will strive daily to be as good as what she saw in each and every one of us. Memorials may be made to Soup Mobile Inc., 3017 Commerce St., Dallas, Texas 75226 because of her compassion and concern for the less fortunate or to the charity of your choice. Joan's favorite bible verse: And now abideth faith, hope, and charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.

I Corinthians 13:13.  
King James Version

## Submitting obituaries

To submit an obituary, please send a word document with **no more than 300 words**, a 300dpi photo and a contact phone number to [hownikan@potawatomi.org](mailto:hownikan@potawatomi.org).

## CPN burial assistance through Tribal Rolls

**The \$2,000 CPN Burial Assistance Fund is automatically available to all enrolled CPN members. You may fill out a burial assistance fund form if you would like for us to keep it on file in case of any change in resolutions.**

**Please note: Once a CPN Tribal member has passed, the Tribal Rolls office must**

**be notified in order for CPN to provide burial funding. Information and instructions for the burial process will be sent to the next of kin and will be discussed then.**

**For more information please call Tribal Rolls at 405-878-5835 or email [CClark@Potawatomi.org](mailto:CClark@Potawatomi.org).**